

I am sorry for not being able to provide live testimony yesterday, I was at a track meet, something I can do in school that doesn't require reading. My story begins in the first grade, prior to that I had not been exposed to any reading instruction. I was always taken out of class or put in a below level reading group with Instructional Assistants, not Teachers. In the third grade I was diagnosed with Dyslexia. Even though we knew I had this problem no one knew how to teach me to read. I was put on an IEP, I was still not taught how to read. My mom modified my spelling tests and taught me the words included. It was very stressful at school not knowing how to read, being made fun of and being put in with much younger students. Little to nothing has changed for students in the same situation as mine. If teachers were taught direct, explicit, systematic reading instruction they would have been able to teach me to read. This type of instruction works for all learners. Portland public schools have started training in the LETRS program and it is in high demand. This training needs to be made available to teachers in my district as well.

I am 18 years old now and have very little confidence in my reading ability. I primarily use technology to read the things I need read. My mom is typing this for me since this text box does not have a text to speech capabilities. Please take steps to make funding for teacher training (or Aide's if that is who is with the kids learning) in the LETRS program available in my school district.