



The 3-D School
120 South George Street
Petal, MS 39465

Dear Honorable Legislator,

By way of this letter, I am requesting that you please support **HB 1046** to expand services to Mississippi students with dyslexia. In 2012, with your support, we took a step towards raising the standard of care for these students by codifying into law dyslexia screening, treatment, and the Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship that allows MAEP funds to follow students to non-public “special purpose schools”. Hundreds of children have become successful readers due to the dyslexia law; however, the dyslexia scholarship program is only being utilized by three “special purpose schools” in the state because the law is so tightly restricted to those schools.

Because of this restriction, many families have had to move or drive long distances for three or more years to bring their children to the 3-D School. Children should not have to ride over 100 miles per day, or move away from their homes to receive dyslexia intervention.

In 2012, it was our hope that the Dyslexia law would encourage public schools to hire dyslexia therapists and serve the children within their districts; however, very few public schools have hired dyslexia therapists. Ironically, it’s the non-public schools in Mississippi that are hiring dyslexia therapists. So sadly, only the students whose parents can afford to write the check receive quality intervention. It is my sincere hope that Mississippi students with dyslexia from all socio-economic levels have the opportunity to receive quality dyslexia therapy instruction. **HB 1046** would allow the dyslexia scholarship to follow a student with dyslexia to an accredited non-public school near their home that offers dyslexia therapy. This would provide opportunities for many students to receive dyslexia therapy.

If passed, **HB 1046** will have an adverse effect on the 3-D School enrollment. This is where my agenda differs from those who oppose this Bill. I’ve dedicated my life to helping children with dyslexia and would much rather children have access to dyslexia therapy programs in schools near their homes. Unfortunately, just as in 2012, there will be those who are more interested in their own personal interests than in the best interest of these children. I pray that you will choose to support **HB 1046**.

Respectfully,

Cena Holifield, Ph.D., CALT, QI
Executive Director, The 3-D School