



Dyslexia Alliance for **Black Children**

Impact Report 2024



Our Mission

The Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children (DABC) aims to eliminate the amplified inequities for Black children experiencing unaddressed dyslexia and related learning disabilities.

Our Vision

Every child is a learner empowered to reach their potential.

Core Values

Our core foundational values are collective liberation, transformative justice, and empowered communities. These values align with liberatory and abolitionist strategies for challenging racism and ableism and dismantling systems of oppression. Since 2020, we have and will continue to view these challenges and systems through a historical and intersectional lens to inform the work that lies ahead.



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A word from our founder...



We are proud to share the Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children's 2024 Impact Report, showcasing our unwavering commitment to supporting children and families while addressing the challenges at the intersection of racism and ableism faced by Black children. The urgency to address the literacy crisis facing Black children, especially those with dyslexia and other related learning disabilities, could not be more critical. Our children do not struggle because they lack ability or brilliance; they struggle because systems were not designed with their full humanity in mind. The failure to see, honor, and support Black children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities is not just a pedagogical oversight—it is a moral failure. And yet, in this moment, we are emboldened by the possibility of transformation.

In 2024, DABC deepened our commitment to our mission and expanded the scope of work, working to eliminate the amplified inequities for Black children with dyslexia and related learning disabilities. At the heart of our efforts lies an unwavering truth: literacy is justice, and justice demands action now. As we grow, our mission and vision continue to guide us—to affirm Black children and families to dismantle barriers and create transformative pathways to literacy success.

This year marked significant milestones for DABC. We launched our Dyslexia Roadmap, an interactive video guide that engaged over 2,000 individuals with invaluable tools to navigate the complexities of dyslexia. We reached over 1,000 families through our free family workshops. Our second annual Transformative Literacy Practices brought together over 200 educators, community members, and advocates nationwide, solidifying our role as a thought leader in literacy justice. Keynotes from Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings and Dr. April Baker-Bell ignited conversations around linguistic justice and culturally relevant pedagogy.

Looking ahead to 2025, we remain steadfast in our commitment to breaking cycles of literacy injustice. We invite you to explore our 2024 Impact Report, which captures our work, why, and fierce determination to affirm and support Black children.

This work cannot wait. The stakes are too high, and the need too great. Thank you for standing with us as we push forward with tenacity, hope, and unwavering resolve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Resha C".

Resha Conroy, MPA, MS, CCC-SLP Founder
and Executive Director

Our Why

We are facing a national literacy crisis that disproportionately impacts Black students.

The percentage of fourth-grade public school students performing at or above National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) proficient level in reading (2022).

33%



For Black students, this percentage takes a sharp decline.

17%



Our Why

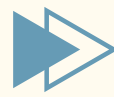
At the intersection of racism and ableism, Black students with dyslexia are often undiagnosed and misdiagnosed.

Teachers are **less likely** to consider academic difficulties experienced by students of color as the result of a disability (Cooc, 2017).

In NYC, Black children are **2x more likely** to be classified with emotional disturbance than their non-Black peers (Fancsali and Chelsea Farley, n.d.).

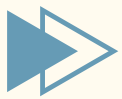
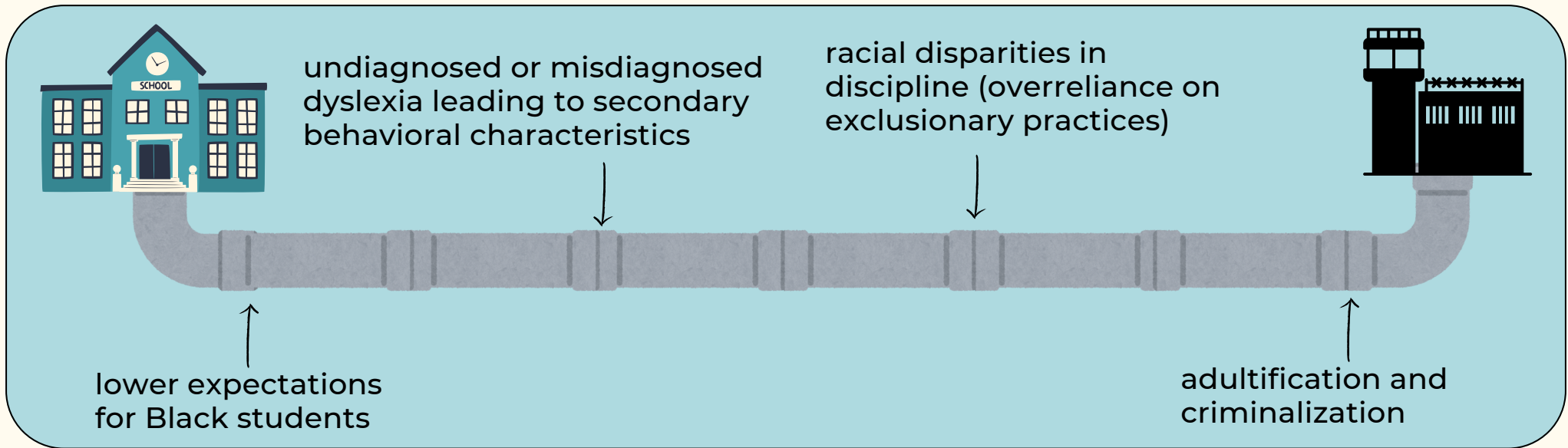
Reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade is a key predictor of high school graduation. Among 4th graders, only **13%** of African-American boys living below the poverty line, scored at or above 4th-grade proficiency level. This only increased to **28%** for African-American boys not living below the poverty line (NAEP, 2022 Reading Assessment; KIDS COUNT).

Our Why



School-to-Prison Pipeline

80% of incarcerated adults are reported to be functionally illiterate. **48%** of the incarcerated adults were deficient in word attack skills consistent with a dyslexia diagnosis (Moody, 2000).



Personal Economic and Social Cost of Illiteracy

People with low literacy earn **30%-42% less than their literate counterparts** and do not have the literacy skills required to undertake further vocational education or training to improve their earning capacity (Lal, 2015).



Global Economic Impact

The [World Literacy Foundation](#) (2018) reported that illiteracy and low literacy levels are estimated to cost the global economy approximately **\$839 billion annually**.

Our How

► Solutions centered on our values and strengths:



**Deep Commitment
to Educational
Justice**



**Affirmed
Families**



**Multigenerational
Support**



**Community
Partners**



**Committed
Schools**

► Affirm and uplift families facing ableism and systemic racism by providing them with the knowledge, support, and resources they need to confidently navigate educational systems.

► Confront systemic inequities by uniting a coalition of informed and dedicated parents, educators, and partners to take transformative action in pursuit of educational justice.

Our Impact

1,135 families served
from **42 states** and **12 countries**



95% of families reported that workshops were helpful.

67% of families attending more than one workshop reported that they used previous workshop information to advocate for their child.



Our Impact

DABC expanded our reach with high quality digital resources.



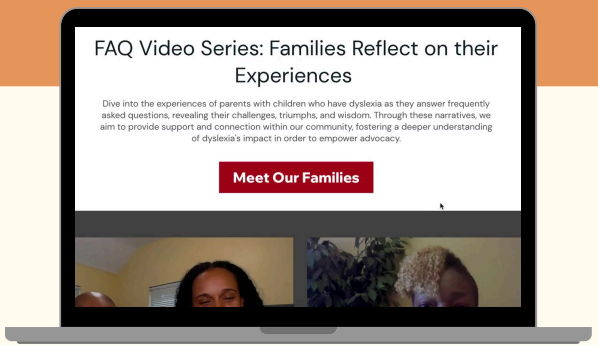
Dyslexia Roadmap

2,910 views.



FAQ Video Series

708 views.



100% of survey respondents shared that

- the Dyslexia Roadmap was helpful.
- they would recommend it to others.

“ I think it (the Dyslexia Roadmap) is great. **I wish I'd had this. I wish I'd known about y'all when all this started...** This literally gives you the 411. -DABC Participant ”

2024 Monthly Family Workshops

January

Special Education Evaluation and Eligibility Family Workshop

Brandi Tanner, PhD, NCSP

February

Executive Functioning Skills: What They Are and How to Support Your Child

Brandi Wells, PhD

March

Building Phonics at Home with Open Source Phonics

Katie Spurlock, PhD

Finding Just Right Choices for Every Reader: Intro to Storyshares eLibrary

Shira Engel, MA, WDP

April

Mastering the Present Level of Performance: Key Elements to Include

Cheryl Poe, MA

Balancing Acts: Cultivating Caregivers' Self-Care and Child-Advocacy Skills

Magda Labonté-Blaise, Esq., MA, MST

May

The Art of Parent Input

Shemica S. Allen, MS

Great Time for Students with Learning Disabilities to Pursue Post-Secondary

Landmark School
Suzanne Crossman and Kelly Scimone

August

Support Literacy Development by Building Language

Sydney Bassard, MSP, CCC-SLP

September

ADHD and Executive Functioning: How Can I Support My Student?

Groves Learning Organization
Meghan Miller, MS, CCC-SLP, ADHD-C
and Alaa Hourri, PhD, LP, NCSP

Bolstering Reading Attitudes in Dyslexic and Struggling Readers

Desmond Williams, MA

Our monthly family workshops had **985+** registrants in 2024!

Request access to the recordings of workshops by clicking [here](#)



“Each workshop has given me tools that allow me to be a collaborative, engaged and advocating parent to ensure the success of my child obtaining a standard diploma.

-2024 Workshop Participant

DABC Ambassadors Program

Reached families in New York
City and the District of
Columbia.

Reached
more than
500 families!



- Certified teachers with structured literacy training provided students with 80 hours of high-dosage reading intervention using the Empower™ Reading Program.
- Parents and classroom teachers received weekly updates.



Bronx,
NY

Bronx Alliance
Middle School



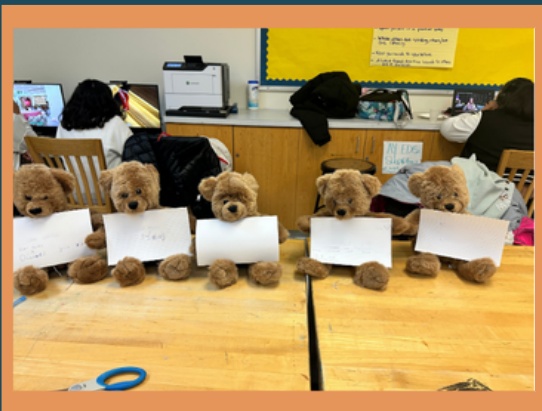
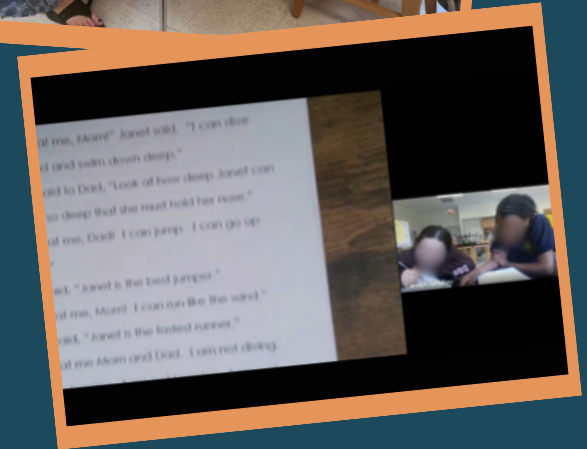
Bronx,
NY

PS 189 Cornerstone
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Action



Mount Vernon,
NY

Grimes School



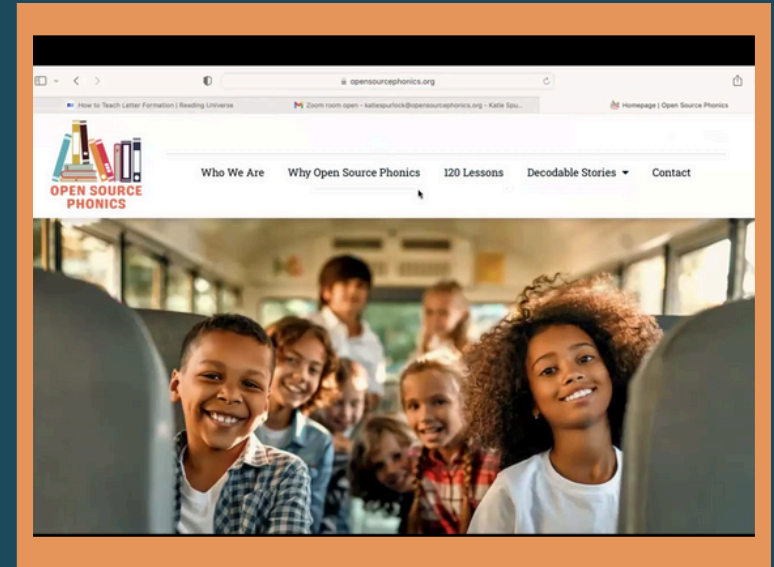
Results:

- Attendance improved for students participating in the Reading Futures Program.
- Classroom teachers reported that students are independently using decoding strategies throughout the school day.
- Teachers shared that students gradually blossomed into self-motivated, independently engaged learners as their skills improved throughout the course of the program.

Supplemental Programs

Families-As-Tutors

A cohort of 8 parents/caregivers received support and tools including 6 hours of training on structured literacy to effectively tutor at home.



Through a generous grant from Good Samaritan, Inc., DABC provided programs to the NYC Public Schools District 5 community:

District 5 Family Literacy Fair and Harlem Reads and Rights Launch
25 families received 1-on-1 literacy support.

500 books given to families in partnership with Our Kids Read at The Ralph Bunche School in Harlem.



Dyslexia Awareness Day Bus in partnership with Literacy Academy Collective.

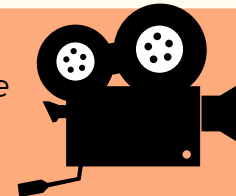


Literacy workshop provided to parents and staff at The Ralph Bunche School in Harlem.



2 workshops reaching over 100 staff members of the Children's Aid Society.

Screening of *The Right to Read*.



Our 2024 Annual Conference

Transformative Literacy Practices: Nurturing the Souls of Black Children Culture, Language, and Literacy

“Thank you for this incredible opportunity to be in community with others who care about changing the trajectories of Black children whose literacy learning needs are not being served well.”



“Sessions seamlessly emphasized nurturing the whole child. The intertwined importance of culturally relevant and trauma-informed instruction within SoR was especially refreshing.”



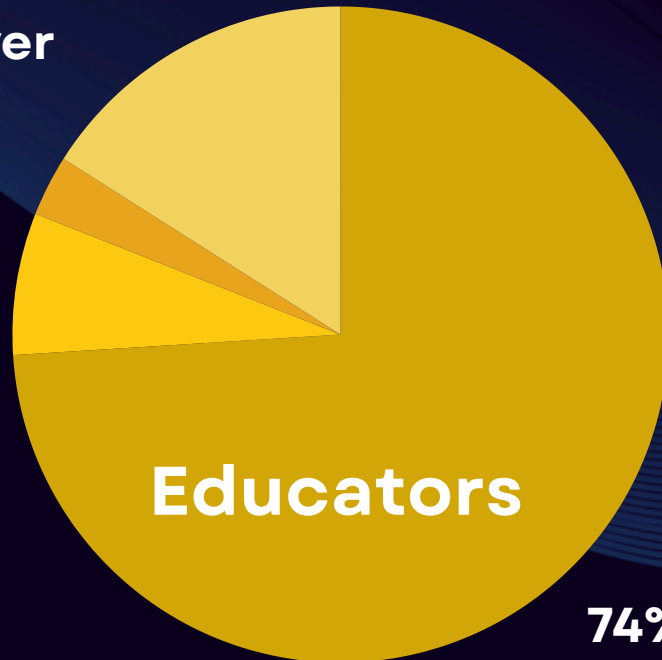
“All of the information presented was insightful. Understanding the differences in speaking provided me with a new lens when assessing phonological awareness.”



Other Professionals
16%

Parent/Caregiver
3%

Advocates
7%



221

registrants

31

US states represented
(including DC)

Our 2024 Annual Conference

Transformative Literacy Practices: Nurturing the Souls of Black Children Culture, Language, and Literacy

Thank you to our 2024 Conference Sponsors

THANK YOU!



Our 2024 Annual Conference

Transformative Literacy Practices: Nurturing the Souls of Black Children Culture, Language, and Literacy

Thank you to our keynote speakers:

Gloria Ladson-Billings, PhD
April Baker-Bell, PhD

Thank you to our speakers:

Almitra L. Berry, EdD
Mitchell Brookins, PhD
Ray James, MEd
Lakeisha Johnson, PhD, CCC-SLP
Dionna Latimer-Hearn, PhD, CCC-SLP
Jasmine Rogers, EdD

Thank you to our asynchronous speakers:

Renata M. Archie, EdD
Ayana Bass, MA
Sydney Bassard, MSP, CCC-SLP
Latesha Durkins, EdD
Brandi Tanner, PhD, NCSP
Elizabeth Zagata, PhD

Thank you to our workshop presenters:

Jeanine Cyrwus, MEd, CAGS, CSLT
Latesha Durkins, EdD
Sarah Irvine Belson, PhD
Charmelle Smith, MEd

Thank you to our vendors:



“Thank you for curating a great selection of speakers. They were knowledgeable and inspirational, motivating attendees to apply topics to their line of work immediately.”

-Conference Attendee



Where We've Been



May

- DC Capital Area Branch of the International Dyslexia Association Community Event



- Edge Fearless Learning
- Inside Schools

June

- California Dyslexia Initiative
- Equality Charter School
- Dyslexia Uncovered Podcast with Dr. Tim Odegard



- Ralph Bunche School (PS 125) with Our Kids Read
- Children's Aid Society
- Student Success Project

September

- CREC Museum Academy

October

- Building Literacy Resource Fair DC Chapter- IDA



- IDA 2024 Annual Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference
- Hunt Institute
- AIM Institute for Learning & Research
- Breaking Barriers Together Conference



- Advocating 4 Kids

November

- Innovate Public Schools

December

- Carroll School & the Learning Prep School

January

- Children's Aid Society
- "Literacy Leadership" The Learning Ally Podcast with Dr. Terrie Noland, CALP

February



- Chattanooga 2.0

March

- Amani Charter School
- NYS Dyslexia Awareness Day

April

- Children's Aid Society - Dunlevy Milbank Center
- Maryland Neurodivergent Families

Thank you to our Donors!

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Wallace Foundation

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Pro Bono Partnership for your
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We make every effort to be accurate, and apologize for any errors. Please contact us at inquiries@dyslexiablack.org to correct and update our records for names and any other reason.

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Dyslexia Alliance
for **Black Children**

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Volunteer

The DABC seeks dynamic, passionate, and resourceful individuals and organizations that are committed to educational justice and determined to dismantle systems of oppression. Volunteers are welcome to support our annual conference, quarterly parent newsletter, and year-round programming.

Want to get involved?

Please email us at the address below.



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Black Children](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-dyslexia-alliance-for-black-children)



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