

# Proclamation

For the month of October, 2016  
Dyslexia Awareness Month  
State of Florida, County of Pinellas  
Proclamation by the Pinellas County School Board

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County School Board recognizes that dyslexia is defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; and due to a difficulty in getting to the individual sounds of spoken language, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, spell, and often, learn a language; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects 80 percent to 90 percent of all individuals with a learning disability, and that early diagnosis of dyslexia is critical for ensuring that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidence-based intervention that leads to the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment and the provision of necessary accommodations so as to ensure school and life success; and

WHEREAS, an individual with dyslexia may have weakness in decoding or reading fluency and strength in higher level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, or problem solving; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County School Board celebrates that great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia on a scientific level, including the epidemiology and cognitive and neurobiological bases of dyslexia; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Pinellas County School Board, by virtue of the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim, October, 2016 as *Dyslexia Awareness Month* in Pinellas County Schools and in doing so urge all citizens to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed.

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Peggy L. O'Shea, Chairperson

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Dr. Michael A. Grego, Superintendent