What is Dyslexia?
AN OVERVIEW FOR EDUCATORS

A type of learning disability characterized by difficulties establishing relationships between printed & spoken language.

Common characteristics

Difficulties in:
- learning letter-sound correspondences
- identifying unique sounds in a word
- blending individual sounds to read words
- following & remembering directions
- recalling names of people & places
- remembering sequences
- retrieving precise words
- rhyming words

TENNESSEE READING RESEARCH CENTER
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYTH</th>
<th>FACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals with dyslexia see words in reverse.</td>
<td>Individuals with dyslexia may have difficulty storing and retrieving the correct letter sequence for a given word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals with dyslexia can’t learn to read.</td>
<td>Individuals with dyslexia can become skilled readers with instruction combining:  - Explicit, systematic phonics instruction featuring  - Opportunities to practice  - Immediate, specific feedback from a skilled reader to support word reading proficiency  - Targeted automaticity at word- &amp; connected-text level  - Comprehension strategies  - Word knowledge  - World knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslexia is unique from disabilities served by special education and does not qualify a student for an individualized education program (IEP).</td>
<td>Due to inconsistent criteria associated with a dyslexia diagnosis, in some states dyslexia is served under a 504 plan or a plan ensuring the provision of accommodations rather than educational programming.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learn more**

- **International Dyslexia Association**
- **National Center on Improving Literacy**
- **Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia**
- **Dyslexia in the Classroom: What Every Teacher Needs to Know**
- **Schools and Districts**
- **Infographics & Infosheets**