



For Immediate Release
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NCLD Statement on Department of Education Parent Roundtable to Mark National Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia and ADHD Awareness Month

WASHINGTON--In recognition of October being National Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia and ADHD Awareness Month, representatives from the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) participated Wednesday in a roundtable convening hosted by the Department of Education. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos invited parents and advocates to discuss ways the Department can better serve children with disabilities.

NCLD is encouraged by the Department's focus on learning and attention issues, like dyslexia and ADHD, which affect 1 in 5 kids nationwide, and called on the Department to prioritize parent engagement and input as they navigate ways to better support all learners.

"We are looking forward to partnering with the Department to engage more parents as we work to create an inclusive society where all people can thrive," said Mimi Corcoran, NCLD President and CEO.

NCLD participants included Corcoran, who spoke about her experience being both the leader of a national advocacy organization as well as the mother of a son with disabilities, and Regional Field Manager Jessica Gordon, who shared her story of struggling with ADHD herself, and how it has helped her in supporting her own daughters, both diagnosed with attention issues.

The gathering was a strong example of the community's collective efforts to dismantle barriers that prevent individuals with learning and attention issues from succeeding. In light of the Department's recent rescinding of IDEA guidance documents, NCLD is hopeful for increased transparency and engagement between the Department and members of the disability community.

"The Department will continue to work every day to empower families with the supports and services they need in learning environments that best fit their children's individual educational needs," said Secretary DeVos in a statement issued after the convening.

Other roundtable participants included Senator Bill Cassidy, Dr. Laura Cassidy, Decoding Dyslexia, International Dyslexia Association, Learning Disabilities Association of America, National Center on Improving Literacy, The Dyslexia Foundation and staff members from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) of the U.S. Department of Education.

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The mission of the National Center for Learning Disabilities is to improve the lives of the 1 in 5 children and adults nationwide with learning and attention issues—by empowering parents and young adults, transforming schools and advocating for equal rights and opportunities. We’re working to create a society in which every individual possesses the academic, social and emotional skills needed to succeed in school, at work and in life. For more information, visit nclid.org.

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