

PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS



In a disaster, information matters. Our ability to serve our most vulnerable students depends on our ability to collaborate, share, and exemplify best practices. That's why NCLD was one of five founding partners of the [Educating All Learners Alliance](#), a coalition that has grown to 70 national partners with hundreds of searchable resources and weekly webinars to support educators and parents. NCLD also developed [dozens of resources](#), including policy guidance and best practices to support families, educators, and policymakers as they struggle to serve students with disabilities.

PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



In the midst of the pandemic, Congress and the Trump administration considered waiving the civil rights of students with disabilities. These changes would have meant that schools didn't have to serve these students. NCLD launched the [#MyIDEMatters campaign](#) to oppose all proposals to roll back critical protections for students and families. Nearly 1,500 advocates sent letters to their members of Congress, voicing their opposition. In addition, NCLD led the advocacy effort with more than 350 other partners to urge Congress to increase funding to support students with disabilities.

CREATING THE NEW LD CHECKLIST: RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND



COVID-19 stalled many typical support systems for families. To address this issue, NCLD has used the most recent research available to develop an interactive tool to help with early recognition of learning difficulties. [The LD Checklist: Recognize and Respond](#) is meant to help parents and other caregivers determine whether a child is at risk for, or shows signs of, having learning disabilities. The more characteristics checked, the more important it is to seek clarification about the presence of underlying learning disabilities. To date, the LD Checklist has been viewed more than 2,000 times.

BUILDING COMMUNITY AMONG YOUNG ADULTS



When COVID hit, NCLD worked to build resources that would help college students and young adults navigate the higher education world that was devastated by COVID. We worked with experts and young adults to create written and video blogs with practical advice and resources. We spent the summer of 2020 building out an online community for young adults with learning and attention issues, where they can connect with each other and find resources, advice, and helpful tips curated *by young adults for young adults*. Our new community, LD Connect, will launch in the late fall of 2020.

One in five people have learning and attention issues, including specific learning disabilities like dyslexia and/or attention issues like ADHD. These individuals are just as capable as their peers, but many struggle in school and beyond. We know that with the right support, they can flourish. For more than 40 years, NCLD has worked to achieve our mission of advancing understanding of learning disabilities and attention issues, and creating a society in which every individual possesses the academic, social, and emotional skills needed to thrive in school, at work, and in life.

NCLD carries out its mission by...



Protecting the rights of the 1 in 5: We actively shape local and national policy efforts to reduce barriers and ensure opportunity and access for all. Our policy recommendations have influenced state policies and have been cited by Congress and incorporated into laws and regulations impacting millions of individuals with learning disabilities and attention issues.



Engaging young adults in leadership and advocacy: Many young people with learning and attention issues struggle when they leave behind the support they received in high school. We're working directly with young adults on leadership-development initiatives that can help them become strong advocates for themselves and their peers as they navigate the transition into adulthood.



Conducting innovative research to support all learners: To inform our work and build knowledge in the field, we identify, develop, and publish groundbreaking reports and resources to help educators, policymakers, parents, and students enhance their understanding of learning disabilities and attention issues and improve practices to support all learners.



Mobilizing and empowering parents to help their children thrive: NCLD unites parents, students, and learning disability advocates to fight together for equity, parity in funding, and policies that positively impact students with learning disabilities and attention issues. We empower parents to take a proactive role in their children's education by exposing them to resources and strengthening their advocacy skills. Our multifaceted approach places us at the vanguard of disability policy.

Through our initiatives and with the expertise of our renowned Professional Advisory Board, NCLD creates policies and programs, convenes experts, conducts and aggregates research, and produces practical resources to reduce stigma, promote self-advocacy skills, and mobilize a powerful force of knowledgeable advocates to create real change. Visit us at [NCLD.org](https://www.nclld.org) to learn how you can get involved.