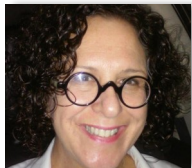




[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PAULA HAMP

Greetings everyone!

Here we are, nearly all the way through 2020. What a wild ride; what a crazy year; it has been a challenge to say the least. On the positive side, we have stepped up and met the challenge! Since you have all done such a fabulous job of stepping up and meeting the multiple challenges that we have had so far this year, I have a two-fold challenge for you! October is Learning Disability Awareness Month; my challenge to you is to reach out to someone and tell them about LDA-IA and all that it has to offer, and bring them into the LDA-IA family. If you cannot convince a friend, family or co-worker to join, I challenge you to contribute to LDA-IA. Let's do something positive for the year 2020 and double our membership.

LDA-IA has so much to offer. Have you looked through our website lately or joined us on Facebook? Sharing these sites with a friend is a great way to get them to join LDA-IA. We have so much to offer! As a member, we give you the latest up to date information about researched resources, the latest updates on Iowa law, Federal law and U.S. Supreme Court rulings. We offer information and resources to parents, educators, adults and professionals.

I want to thank those of you who continue to give through financial donations and giving of your time and energy to the organization. This organization benefits greatly from donations and its volunteers which in turn benefits its members. I look forward to everyone stepping up to the October challenge.

Be blessed,

Paula

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LDA-IA TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The annual meeting and election will be held at 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 24th. The online meeting is open to the public and all LDA members. If you would like to participate, [contact us](#) and we'll send you the login information.

See the Slate of Nominees for 2021 [here](#).

ABOUT LDA-IOWA

The Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa (LDA-IA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides information, referral, and support to individuals statewide. LDA-IA is a state affiliate of the Learning Disabilities Association of America.

LDA IOWA-OUR MISSION STATEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

The Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa is dedicated to identifying causes and promoting prevention of learning disabilities and to enhancing the quality of life for all individuals with learning disabilities and their families by:

- Encouraging effective identification and intervention,
- Fostering research, and
- Protecting the rights of individuals with learning disabilities under the law.

Encouraging Effective Identification and Intervention

LDA Iowa supports the Core Principles developed by our national organization regarding evaluation and identification of learning disabilities. Click [here](#) to read LDA America's full document on the Core Principles of Evaluation and Identification of Learning Disabilities.

Fostering Research

LDA America's research committee works with the medical and scientific communities in conjunction with the [Healthy Children Project](#). Research focuses on the causes and prevention of learning disabilities. Information on chemicals of concern to brain development is available [here](#).

Protecting the Rights of Individuals with Learning Disabilities Under the Law LDA Legislative Priorities-A Voice for Those Impacted by Learning Disabilities:

Did you know that LDA America continues to monitor Federal policies and legislation that impact individuals and families affected by learning disabilities and related disorders? This leadership has provided valuable tools for state affiliates, such as LDA Iowa, to become more involved in advocating legislatively. Here are some examples of legislative issues that LDA has addressed through advocacy:

- * CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act): This act contains an "Educational Stabilization Fund" that provides money to elementary and secondary schools and also to higher education.
- * IDEA Full Funding: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children. The 2021 budget only funds 13% of the costs of providing these programs, which is well short of the promised 40% funding level. LDA advocates for full funding of IDEA.
- * Americans with Disabilities Act-ADA: ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on a disability. Tom Harkin, former US congressman from Iowa for over four decades, was instrumental in getting this law passed. This law provides protection from discrimination for all disabilities, including learning disabilities. LDA opposes any amendments or changes to this law that would weaken or reduce these protections for individuals with disabilities.

....continued from page 2

- * Educational Technology, Media, and Materials (ETechM2) Program: LDA advocates for more funding for this program that is the primary source of support for accessible technology and media-related activities under IDEA.
- * The READ Act: This is a grant program for addressing improving literacy, especially for early evidence-based screening and intervention for those at risk for dyslexia or other reading difficulties.
- * The RISE Act: This act seeks to ensure the success of students with disabilities in higher education by colleges to accept an IEP or 504 Plan as evidence of a disability in order to receive accommodations.

If you would like to be more involved and help us to continue to advocate for those impacted by learning disabilities, [JOIN LDA](#) or [DONATE NOW!](#)



Help us to continue to advocate for effective identification and intervention, further research and protecting the legal rights of individuals with learning disabilities!

GET INVOLVED! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you to all of our LDA Iowa members. Many of you have been with us for a number of years, and we appreciate your support. If you know someone who is impacted by learning disabilities or who is interested in learning more about learning disabilities, invite them to become a member today! Help us to continue to advocate for effective identification and intervention, further research and protecting the legal rights of individuals with learning disabilities! Get involved. [JOIN](#) or [DONATE](#) today!

Join us!

AMAZON SMILE



Did you know that you can put the Amazon Smile App right on your smart Android or iPhone? Here are some new instructions for getting the Amazon Smile App on your phone:

[AmazonSmile Mobile App Instructions](#)

This is a free, fast and easy way to help support the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa! Just three steps to set up (see link above for full instructions):

1. Join Amazon Smile and select LDA-IA as your charity (if you haven't already done this on your computer).
2. Download the Amazon Shopping app to your phone.
3. In phone settings, turn on "Amazon Smile."





LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ADULTS ROLE IN HELPING OUR KIDS UNDERSTAND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Richard Owens, Ed.D—LDA-Iowa Board Member

One role of parents and educators is to guide our kids' understanding and thinking about various issues. But we need to enlarge that adult pool to include all adults when it comes to the pandemic. When adults gather, the one topic that is most frequently discussed at the present time are some occurrences and attitudes as a result of the pandemic. This is true when children are present or if children are not present. Add the coverage in print materials like the daily newspaper and news broadcasts to our personal discussions and our homes and what children hear and see have become a COVID-19 saturated listening environment.

Now that many children or youth are returning to school, the issue of COVID-19 is the main topic of the day for families with school-aged students. Most children / youth have had some level of concern about the virus, but with the change in the going back to school conversation, it is highly likely that students will experience some increase in personal concerns. They may be worried about and how returning to school will increase the danger of exposure and invasion of the virus. Children who are looking for guidance

“One way to successfully combat the impact of the pandemic is to react by being informed and ensuring your children are also informed.”

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP FOR ADULTS WITH LD

LDA America has started a Facebook page for adults with learning disabilities!

It's called:

[LDA: Adults with Learning Disabilities](#)

You can join this Facebook group--just send a request to join the group. It's a great opportunity for you to share your experiences and also hear from others!

related to this topic need adults to be aware that how they handle and talk about the virus will directly influence the perception of the student's thinking.

One resource that parents and teachers should consider reading comes from the National Association of School Psychology that provides simple but sensible information that can be used as the primary outline to use when talking with students. The following list of topics give you an idea of what this article provides:

- Stay Calm, Listen, and Offer Reassurance
- Monitor Television Viewing and Social Media
- Take Time to Talk
- Be Honest and Accurate
- Keep Explanations Age-Appropriate
- Stay Connected to School
- Know the Symptoms of COVID-19
- Model Basic Hygiene and Healthy Lifestyle Practices
- Be Aware of Your Children's Mental Health

If you would like to read more about these topics, click [here](#) to access this free resource from the National Association of School Psychologists website.

There are many resources available that address this topic. I found this one to be an excellent outline to start from when planning to talk to your child. Regardless, resources are of little value if not understood or used.

So, the final thought is: Please have a usable resource and use it appropriately. One way to successfully combat the impact of the pandemic is to react by being informed and ensuring your children are also informed. This suggests time must be given to conversations and answering questions. This is the same behavior that is expected of parents and teachers so children and youth can effectively learn.

[Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from COVID-19](#)

National Association of School Psychology – July 2020



COVID-19 Resource Center

"Enrichment beyond the classroom"

Supporting learning during a pandemic is a challenge. Be sure to check out LDA America's website for more helpful resources for enhancing learning during this pandemic. Go to LDA's new Covid-19 Resource Center: <https://www.ldaresource.org>.

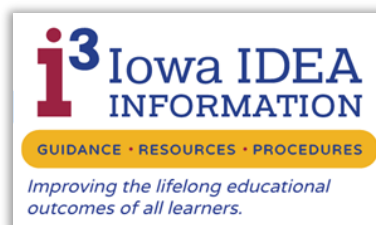
Enjoy browsing through resources and webinars for parents, students and educators. You will find helpful suggestions, ideas, and support on topics such as:

- Online learning
- Creating a schedule
- Accessible apps
- Monitoring the IEP
- Student rights and accommodations
- Mental health
- Tutoring
- Safe cleaning products for the home

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES LAUNCH NEW IDEA GUIDANCE

In July of 2020, the Iowa Department of Education, in collaboration with Iowa's Area Education Agencies released a new early intervention and special education guidance system called [Iowa IDEA Information \(i3\)](#).

According to the Department of Education, the current IDEA Info site that included special education procedures, will be phased out. Be sure to check out this new information site to learn more about IFSP and IEP procedures and resources, real-time updates, and translation options.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED!

Paula Hamp, President of the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa, has announced the 2020 recipient of a scholarship awarded to an Iowa high school senior by the Iowa LDA.

Madeline J. Green, daughter of Brad and Jaci Green of Indianola, has been presented with a scholarship from LDA-Iowa. She is a graduate of Indianola High School. Madeline plans to attend Hawkeye Community College and pursue a career as a physical therapy assistant.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LDA-IA has a long history of offering scholarships to qualifying individuals impacted by learning disabilities; however, due to budget constraints there are no scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year. LDA-IA is dependent on donations for our scholarship program. We welcome donations so that we will be able to reinstate our scholarship program in the future.

In the meantime, we encourage you to explore the scholarship opportunity through the P Buckley Moss Foundation—the P Buckley Moss Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a high school senior with a verified financial need and verified language-related learning difference, visual arts talent and intends to pursue a career in visual arts.

A brochure and application form can be found by going to the [P Buckley Moss Foundation](#) website.

LDA IOWA BOARD MEMBERS SHARE THEIR “WHY”

We asked several of our current members why they continue to be a member of LDA Iowa, and here are some of the responses we received:

"The reason why I'm a member of LDA-IA is because being dyslexic and a special education teacher, it gives me availability to the latest researched resources along with ideas and strategies to use in the classroom."

"I continue to be a member of LDA-IA because of the profound respect I have for all of the advocates who came before me. In the 1960's, parents became very involved in advocating for the educational rights of their children with disabilities. By the mid 1970's, their hard work and perseverance led to the passage of landmark legislation now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Act or IDEA. Children with disabilities were finally guaranteed the right to a "Free, Appropriate, Public Education" or FAPE, and were no longer denied services or turned away from public education. I continue to be a member of the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa because this is not a time to be complacent. It is imperative that we all do our part to continue the hard fight and good work of those who came before us to ensure that all individuals with learning disabilities and related disabilities continue to have access to services and support they need."

"As I reflect upon decades as an educator, I appreciate the types of services that have been developed for students with learning disabilities. When I began my teaching career, prior to the passage of PL-94-142, I recall that there were students who learned differently. After a while, I realized that the heart and soul of education was the delivery of instruction in a variety of ways and then providing diverse methods of verification that the student had mastered specific skills. The provision of a range of teaching and learning opportunities is at the core of educating children with learning disabilities."

After leaving the classroom and working with teachers as a special education consultant and as a supervisor of student teachers and interns, I had the privilege of observing teachers who continued that tradition of experimenting with different types of instructional strategies and providing an assortment of practice and assessment activities. It's gratifying for me to also talk with students who appreciate the array of teaching techniques and multiple opportunities for practicing the new skills. Many parents have expressed gratitude to the educators who have gone "the extra miles" for their child. For this reason, I am continuing my involvement with educators and families who need the services of special education, specifically focusing on the field of learning disabilities."

CONTACT US

LDA Iowa: We are all at home, but continue to be here for you! Contact us today!

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF IOWA

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What's your WHY? Do you know someone who has been impacted by learning disabilities? We are inviting you to join LDA today! Click [here](#) to read more about the benefits of LDA membership.

OCTOBER IS LEARNING DISABILITIES MONTH



October was originally designated in the United States as LD Month in 1985 through a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan. Each year, LDA Iowa celebrates this month by raising awareness about learning disabilities and related disorders. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and on our [website](#) for more information about

