



Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children



Impact Report 2023

Our Mission

The Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children (DABC) aims to eliminate the amplified inequities for Black children experiencing unaddressed dyslexia and related learning disabilities.

Our core foundational values are collective liberation, transformative justice, and empowered communities. These values align with liberatory and abolitionist strategies for challenging racism and ableism and dismantling systems of oppression. Since 2020, we have and will continue to view these challenges and systems through a historical and intersectional lens to inform the work that lies ahead.

Core Values

A word from our founder..



With reflective hearts and unwavering hope, we are pleased to share our 2023 Impact Report. Last year, we raised our voices to illuminate the shadowed intersections of the literacy crisis, particularly its toll on Black students with dyslexia — a group too often rendered invisible within our educational systems. Today, we stand firm in addressing the root of this crisis, advocating for transformative solutions that transcend single-axis literacy movements and ignore the complexities of systemic failures. We declare that literacy is transformative only when we reshape the environments in which our students learn and empower our communities.

As time distances us from the pivotal summer of 2020, and the year of our founding, the critical imperatives of racial equity and justice risk being obscured once more behind the pervasive veil of systemic racism. In literacy circles, debates persist — about whether or not to integrate the science of reading with culturally relevant pedagogies or modify Black English during phonics lessons, and, most disheartening, the question of whether or not Black parental community engagement in their children’s education exists. As we highlighted in our conference, change begins with the truth and must distance itself from distractions.

At the core of our work are the families we serve. In 2023, the dedication of DABC reached over a thousand families, through workshops, training, and parent-to-parent mentorship. Our collaboration with Reading Futures set in motion high-impact reading intervention for late elementary and middle school students in the Bronx and Mount Vernon, marking promising strides and debunking the myth of acceptable reading failure. For educators, our inaugural conference broadened horizons and knit tighter the fabric of our collective wisdom and action, filled with the words of our powerful speakers and presenters, and engaging over 260 educators nationwide.

Looking ahead to 2024, we build upon these foundations, expanding our resources for families and educators. From introducing a family membership program focused on community building to enhancing our virtual video library and curated educational resources, we aim to broaden and measure our impact on the children and families we serve. Our celebration of the inherent strengths of our children and community reverberates through our enduring dedication to advocacy, justice, and educational excellence.

We invite you to delve into our impact report, a testament to our journey, challenges, and victories. Together, we continue a legacy of empowerment, understanding, and relentless pursuit of a world where our children are recognized, nurtured, and celebrated.

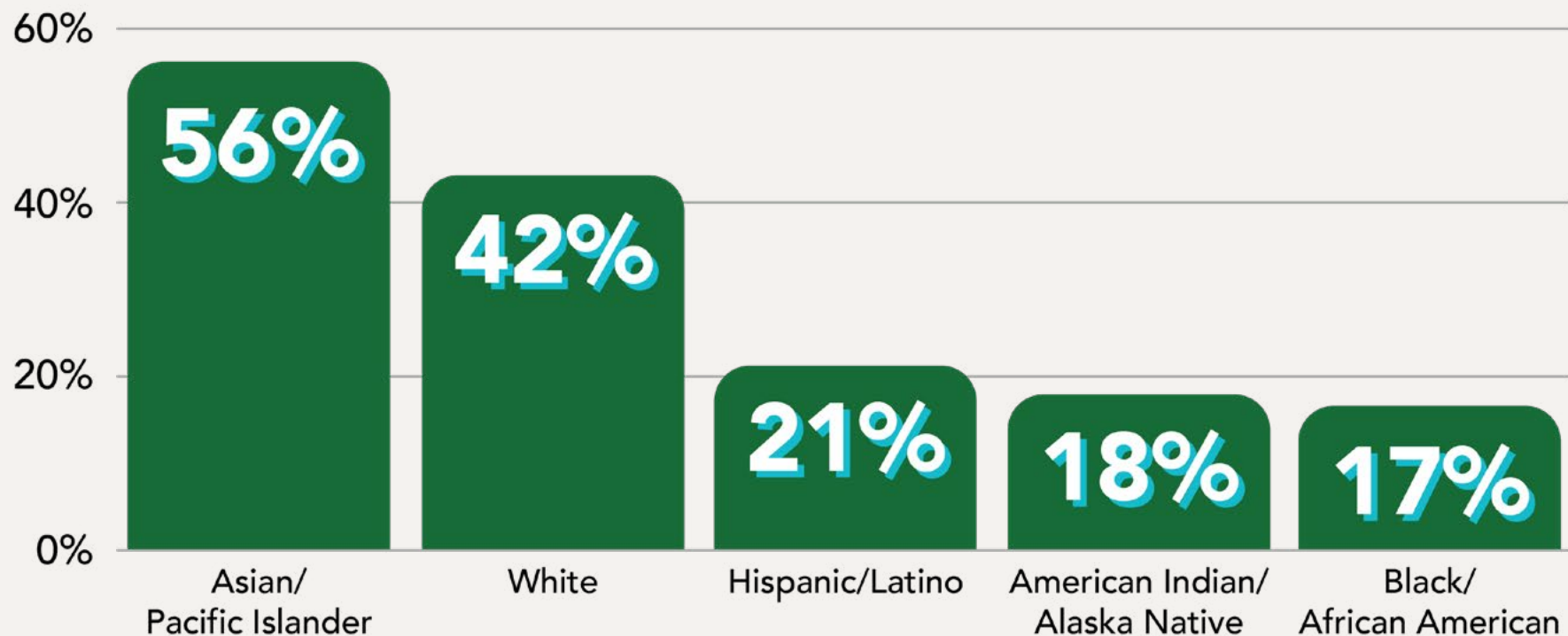
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Resha C'.

Resha Conroy, MPA, M.S., CCC-SLP
Founder and Executive Director

Our Why

We are facing a **national literacy crisis** that **disproportionately impacts** Black students. At the intersection of racism and ableism, Black students with dyslexia are often **undiagnosed and misdiagnosed**.

Percentage of fourth-grade public school students performing at or above NAEP proficient level in reading (2022)



Dyslexia is defined as “unexpected reading difficulties” in a system plagued with low expectations for Black students.

Our How

Solutions centered on our values and strengths:



Deep Commitment to Educational Justice



Empowered Families



Multigenerational Support



Community Partners



Committed Schools

Equip families facing ableism and systemic racism with knowledge, support, and access to the tools needed to navigate educational systems and improve outcomes, both for students and their families.

Challenge systemic ills by building a coalition of knowledgeable and committed parents, educators, and partners to take bold actions towards educational justice.

Our Impact

1,065
families
served



from **43** states
and **8** countries

3x more families
served than 2022



25 school
partners
serving
184 educators

3

parent-coaches trained
for Parent-to-Parent
Coaching program

8

parents mentored
through Parent-to-Parent
Coaching program

5

parents received
advocacy training

95% of participants reported that workshops
and resources were helpful

2023 Monthly Family Workshops

January

Introduction to Assistive Technology

Ptahra Jeppe, Esq.

February

Dyslexia Beyond High School: Yes You Can

Suzanne Crossman and Kelly Scimone

Special Education Information Session

Magda Labonté-Blaise, Esq., M.A., M.St., J.D.

March

Understanding Your Child's IEP

Shemica S. Allen, M.S.

Q & A Session with Special Education Attorney

Oroma Mpi-Reynolds, Esq.

April

Special Education Information Session

Magda Labonté-Blaise, Esq., M.A., M.St., J.D.

May

Special Education Information Session

Magda Labonté-Blaise, Esq., M.A., M.St., J.D.

June

Dyslexia Simulation

Deberah Schlagel

August

Information Session and Giveaway: Black Collective Network Advocacy Conference, Sponsored by Advocating 4 Kids

Cheryl A. Poe, M.A.

September

Dyslexia: Busting Myths and Building Understanding

Resha Conroy, MPA, M.S., CCC-SLP

October

National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL) Resource Share

Karen Shaffer from NCIL

Navigating Dyslexia with AAC: Tools for Literacy and Language

Cheryl A. Poe, M.A.

November

IEP Goal Development Training

Jeannette Roberes, M.Ed., M.S., CCC-SLP

December

"What Does This Data Mean?" A Family Guide for Understanding Student Literacy Data

Chavonna Sheffield, M.A.

“DABC provides expert knowledge to my family that is culturally attuned to dealing with dyslexia. Thank you for helping me find my voice!
- Erika C.”

Our monthly family workshops had

850+

registrants in 2023!

Request access to the recordings of workshops by clicking [here](#)

Supplemental Programs



Through a generous grant, DABC partnered with Reading Futures to serve:



12 students

at
**PS 189 Cornerstone Academy
for Social Action
in the Bronx, NY**

"Students feel connected to their Reading Future Instructors. They exchange postcards with their teachers."

- School Principal, PS189



8 students

at
**Grimes School
in Mount Vernon, NY**

"Middle school students feel comfortable taking risks in their RF groups, which is not something they typically do in the classroom when they are still learning to read."

- Teacher, Grimes School

- Certified teachers with structured literacy training provided students with 120 hours of high-dosage reading intervention using the Empower™ Reading Program.
- Parents and classroom teachers received weekly updates.

Early Results:

- Attendance improved for students participating in the Reading Futures Program.
- Classroom teachers reported that students are independently using decoding strategies throughout the school day.

"Thank you for helping me read."
- 4th grader

"Thank you for always being here for us and helping me when I couldn't spell a word."
- 5th grader

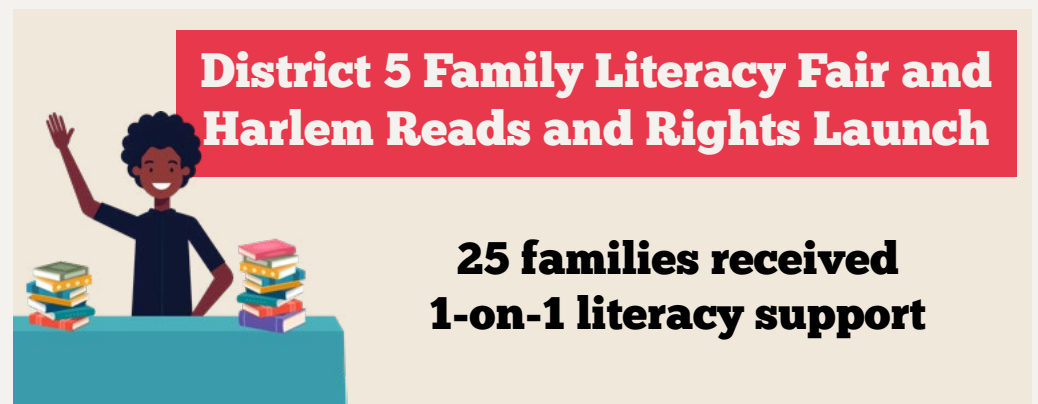
"Thank you for everything you did for us and for getting us our teachers. Now I know how to read. I am getting better."
- 5th grader

Supplemental Programs

Through a generous grant from Good Samaritan, Inc., DABC provided programs to the NYC Public Schools District 5 community:



- **Workshop provided to parents and staff at The Ralph Bunche School in Harlem**
- **500 books given to families from The Ralph Bunche School through a partnership with Our Kids Read**



Our 2023 Virtual Conference

TRANSFORMATIVE LITERACY PRACTICES — Nurturing the Souls of Black Children —

"This presentation is a MUST for all SoR advocates."

- DABC conference participant,
11/9/2023 to Dr. Nicole Patton Terry's
presentation

"What a panel!!! This includes the moderator!"

- DABC conference participant,
11/4/2023 to Panel 1

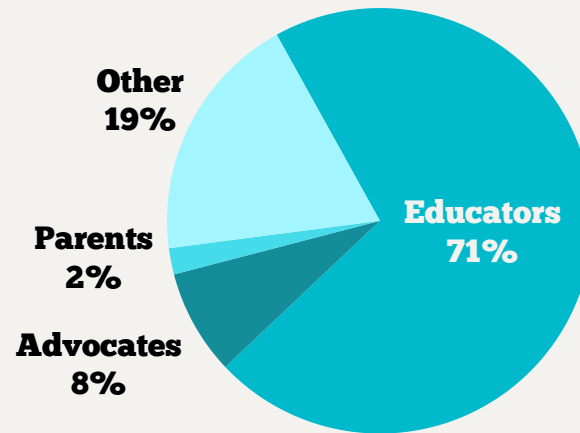
"Excellent discussion! I've been lifted and inspired. Thank you!"

- DABC conference participant,
11/9/2023 to Panel 2

"Thank you so much. Awesome conference. I am so glad you did this and hope you host many, many more."

- DABC conference participant,
11/10/23

268 registrants



33 U.S. states represented

12 vendors

Thank you to our keynote speakers:

Dr. Bettina L. Love
Tracy White Weeden, Ed.D.

Thank you to our presenters:

Wanda J. Blanchett, Ph.D.
Julie A. Washington, Ph.D.
Shameka N. Stewart, J.D., Ph.D., CCC-SLP/L
Nicole Patton Terry, Ph.D.

Thank you to our panelists:

Ameer Baraka
Hilderbrand Pelzer III, M.Ed.
Shameka N. Stewart, J.D., Ph.D., CCC-SLP/L
Sharif El-Mekki, M.Ed.
Nyshawana Francis-Thompson, Ed.D.
Ryan Lee-James, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Thank you to our moderators:

Clarice Jackson
Jasmine Rogers, Ed.D.

Thank you to our vendors:



Where We've Been

January

- Hamlin Robinson School Speaker Series



- Reading Allowed: Speaker Series
- 313Reads Learning for Collective Learning Series

February



- Advocating 4 Kids Black History Month Black Trail Blazers in the Disability Community Event
- The Siena School, Undiagnosed: A Panel Discussion

March

- Dyslexia Training Institute Virtual Conference
- Environmental Charter School

May

- Literacy & Equity Workshop for Specialized Private Schools

June

- Learning Ally Spotlight on Dyslexia | Virtual Conference
- Parent Advocate Master Class delivered by Personalized Learning Solutions, LLC

August

- National Parent's Union, Health Literacy & SEL Fireside Chat
- Advocating 4 Kids' Black Collective Network Advocacy Conference 2023

September

- Staten Island Ferry Hawks Dyslexia Awareness Night

October

- "Ed Sanders Puts the Election in Perspective" First Things First with Dominique DiPrima (KBLA1580 AM Talk Radio)
- Cisco Lunch & Learn | Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Virginia Commonwealth University: Dyslexia Symposium

November

- EdWeb: SEL & Differentiated Instruction

December



- Literacy Celebration with Reading Futures at PS 189 Cornerstone Academy for Social Action

Thank You to Our Donors!

Individual and Corporate Donors

Bridget Anderson
Faeth Antilety
Kelly Barsch
Tyneise Beyer
Kamille Bostick
Peter Conroy
Resha Conroy
Claudia DeMegret
Laura Freeman
Jen Fukutaki
Kashena Headley
Jane Healey

Eric Heyer
Kelli Johnson
Angela Marks
Debbie Meyer
Eric Rosenthal
Peggy Stern
Rachael Whethers
.....
Newgrange-Robinowitz
North Bridge Academy
Lexercise
Hamlin Robinson
School

Foundation Support

Anonymous Gift
Cambiar Thrive Grant
EGF Accelerator
Good Samaritan, Inc.
Ibis Group
NewSchools Venture Fund

Thank you to the Pro Bono Partnership for your ongoing legal support.

We make every effort to be accurate, and apologize for any errors. Please contact us at inquiries@dyslexiablack.org to correct and update our records for names and any other reason.

2024 Programming

Free Family Programs

NEW! DABC Family Membership

The DABC family membership program aims to build a community of learning, support, and action. Membership provides access to a comprehensive system of collective resources with no barriers to access. Resources are curated based on the needs of our membership community and provide support through a family's journey. Members have access to workshops and learning opportunities through our Learning Management System (LMS).

NEW! Dyslexia Roadmap

The Dyslexia Roadmap is a structured and multi-faceted project designed to guide parents, educators, and support teams through a systematic approach to addressing the needs of students with dyslexia and reading difficulties. The Dyslexia Roadmap serves as a holistic and strategic map of the dyslexia advocacy journey, promoting a collaborative and evidence-based approach to empower students with dyslexia to achieve their full potential throughout their educational journey and beyond. The lite version of the roadmap is available on our website, and the full version is accessible through the free family membership.

FAQ Video Series

The FAQ Video series is a groundbreaking resource of interactive videos featuring parents/caregivers of Black children with dyslexia and adults with dyslexia. This collection of videos answers the questions that families frequently ask when facing systemic inequities, racism, and ableism. DABC will continue to add more voices and stories to our series.

DABC Signature Program: Monthly Special Topics for Families

The Family Literacy Program provides support for families seeking immediate literacy solutions for their learners at no cost. This program provides access to literacy, dyslexia, and advocacy workshops, recordings, and tool kits. Our literacy program features live monthly workshops with a range of experts, including special education attorneys and advocates, clinical psychologists, speech language pathologists, educators and more.

Parent-to-Parent Coaching

Parent-to-Parent Coaching provides parents/caregivers one-on-one coaching and access to regular support meetings with another parent of a child who has dyslexia or a related learning disorder.

Family Workshops for Schools & Community Based Organization

DABC extends its commitment to fostering understanding and support by offering specialized workshops designed for families in their community. These interactive sessions provide a unique opportunity for parents and caregivers to gain valuable insights into evidence-based reading instruction, causes of reading difficulties, the effect of dyslexia on their children and the challenges of systemic racism in educational settings. By participating in these sessions, families will gain actionable guidance and a deeper understanding of how to advocate for their children's well-being in the face of structural complexities.

Educator Programs

Workshops for Educators, Schools, and Related Professionals

DABC offers interactive and meaningful workshops that equip schools, educators, and other professionals with the tools necessary to recognize dyslexia's effects on students and combat systemic racism in their environments. We strive to create a significant learning experience that provides valuable insight into how such issues can affect student well-being, and gives participants actionable guidance for addressing these structural and complex matters.



2024
Conference
Save-the-Date
Wednesday, October 30
from 6 PM to 8 PM ET
and
Saturday, November 2
from 9 AM to 3 PM ET

2024 Workshops and Events

Family Workshops

Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00 PM ET

Special Education Evaluation and Eligibility

Presented by Brandi Tanner, Ph.D., NCSP

Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00 PM ET

Executive Functioning Skills: What They Are and How to Support Your Child

Presented by Brandi Wells, Ph.D.

Wednesday, March 6th at 6:00 PM ET

Building Phonic Skills at Home with Open Source Phonics

Presented by Katie Spurlock, Ph.D.

Wednesday, March 13th at 6:00 PM ET

Finding Just Right Choices for Every Reader: Introduction to the Storyshares eLibrary

Presented by Shira Engel, M.A., W.D.P.

Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00 PM ET

Mastering the Present Level of Performance: Key Elements to Include

Presented by Cheryl A. Poe, M.A.

Tuesday, April 30th at 6:00 PM ET

Balancing Acts: Cultivating Parents' Self-Care and Child-Advocacy Skills

Presented by Magda Labonté-Blaise, Esq., M.A., M.St., J.D.

Wednesday, May 8th at 6:00 PM ET

The Art of Parent Input

Presented by Shemica S. Allen, M.S.

Click [here](#)
to request
access to
workshop
recordings!



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Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children

Support Our Work

Click to Donate



Volunteer

The DABC seeks dynamic, passionate, and resourceful individuals and organizations that are committed to educational justice and determined to dismantle systems of oppression. Volunteers are welcome to support our annual conference, quarterly parent newsletter, and year-round programming.

Want to get involved? Please email us at the address below.



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Visit Our Website:

www.dyslexiaallianceforblackchildren.org

**Email Us: info@dyslexiaallianceforblackchildren.org
or inquiries@dyslexiablack.org**