

2024
ANNUAL
REPORT



Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota

Educate • Advocate • Empower

We kicked off 2024 with a new strategic plan. We had accomplished our past goals ahead of schedule and were ready to take on new challenges with a new Executive Director. Our new goals were broken into four categories based on our priorities: READ Act Implementation, Reputation and Brand, Support and Services for Parents, and Support and Services for Teachers.

The READ Act is still unfolding for districts, and it will take time to see statewide results. The initial feedback from teachers is starting to come in and is very positive. We know it is difficult for districts to shift budget priorities and professional development time commitments. Parents often struggle to know what to expect, when, and why they aren't seeing results yet. We have combined action teams to work together on different approaches to get this information out to parents.

We have some amazing resources for families, but if they don't know who we are, it's hard for them to know what we have to offer. So, our action team on Reputation and Brand has ramped up our efforts to be at events with other organizations to reach their audiences and jumped into the world of educational conferences. It was a busy year!

Our Support and Services for Teachers action team has been working hard on some excellent programs for early childhood that will launch in 2025. We are proud of this work and hope to help parents and teachers recognize dyslexia signs early on.



I am proud of the work that Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota has done in 2024. I look forward to seeing the results in the future from the foundation we have set so far.

Kimberly Carlsen
DDMN Board President



Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota

VISION

For students to have equitable literacy instruction that meets their educational needs so they can reach their full potential.

MISSION

Raise dyslexia awareness, empower families to support their children, and improve resources for students with dyslexia in Minnesota's educational environments until all can read.

We strive to include diversity, equity, and inclusion practices in our work. We recognize families of color or lower economic status have historically had less access to literacy interventions and services. Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota is committed to improving outcomes for these students and families.





Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota

Partnership Work

Decoding Dyslexia MN is a small organization with a big reach. We are proud to be working with other organizations in serving the needs of families of dyslexic children and improving the quality of education for students in Minnesota.



Higher Education
Literacy Partnership
of Minnesota (HELP)

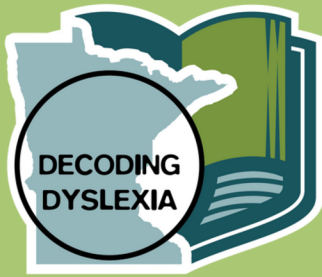


Coalition for
Children With
Disabilities (CCD)



We continue to work with these like-minded organization in our dyslexia coalition to influence public policy decisions at the Minnesota Legislature.

- The Reading Center Dyslexia Institute of MN
- IDA - Upper Midwest Branch
- Groves Learning Organization
- Hill-Murray
- LDA Minnesota
- Orton Gillingham Reading Specialists



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Core to the Mission at DDMN is educating the public on dyslexia. We work in large venues and conferences and small venues with families. Our work in 2024 included;

Conferences

- Hosted a table and presented at the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Conference
- Hosted a table at the MN Assoc. for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) Conference
- Hosted a table for professionals at the IDA-UMB Conference
- Hosted a table at the MN Assoc. of School Administrators and Superintendents (MASA) Conference
- Presented at the MN Assoc. of Colleges for Teacher Ed. (MACTE) Conference



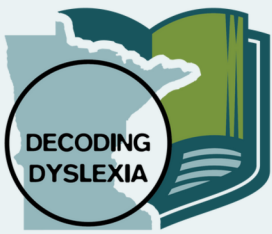
Simulations

- Led a simulation for professionals at the IDA-UMB Conference
- Led a simulation for the public at the Spring Groves event
- Led a simulation for educators at Oakdale School District
- Led two simulations for AmeriCorp Reading Core Trainers
- Led a simulation for the general public at the Fall Groves event
- Led a simulation at the MN Assoc. of Colleges for Teacher Ed (MACTE) Conference

Community Outreach

- Participated in Groves Winter Roundtable for professionals on ADHD
- Sponsored Literacy Rally Day at the MN capital for the general public
- Hosted a table at Wayzata Schools Literacy Night for families
- Dyslexia presentation to Mpls Public School educators
- Participated in Groves Fall Roundtable for professionals on Anxiety
- Hosted a table on Dyslexia at the Rondo Community Library for Planting People Growing Justice event
- Hosted a table at the Fusion School Resource Fair in Edina
- Dyslexia presentation to Mpls Public School Parents at North High
- Participated in Literacy and Lager Community event with legislators
- Worked with Ramsey County Library to help them understand decodable books and what to look for when ordering.





PARTNERS FOR PARENTS

Families are our focus. Our webinar program has grown in content, frequency and reach. Webinars are held weekly and include a wide range of topics. These free and informative family events are advertised on the DDMN website and Facebook pages reaching thousands of viewers each week.

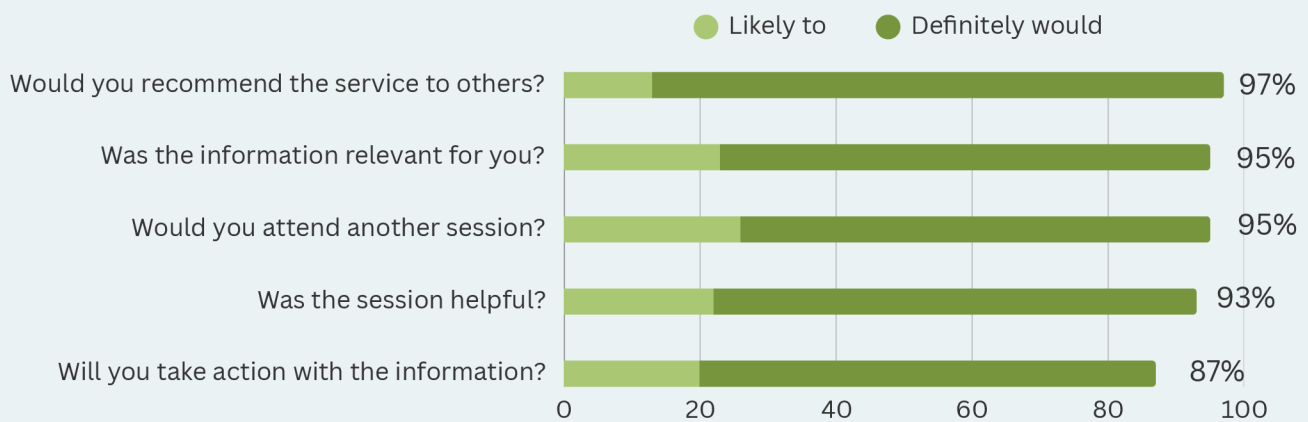
Webinar Topics Include:

- Could Your Struggling Reader be Dyslexic?
- Talking with Your Child About Dyslexia
- Getting an Evaluation for Dyslexia
- Talking with Teachers About Dyslexia
- Preparing for an IEP/504 Meeting
- SMART Goals and Accommodations
- 504 Plans
- What to do if You and the School Don't Agree?
- Post Secondary Planning
- Assistive Technology for Struggling Readers
- Middle and High School IEPs/504s

"We are grateful for your hard work, dedication, and passion to help families of struggling readers. You are a gift to many who have felt hopeless or alone."

"Thank you - I felt supported and seen and appreciate it so much!!!!"

Survey Results from our Program Participants



"This is an incredible resource. I have been feeling lost for my child, but have hope now! Thank you!"

504/IEP Binders

This valuable resource tool was created by DDMN board members to assist families in collecting and organizing the correspondence and data needed to work with schools to build the best instructional plan for their child. In 2024, we distributed 293 copies in English and Spanish free of charge. The binder contents are also available for anyone to download and print from the DDMN website.



MEET OUR TEAM



We are a working board of dedicated individuals in partnership with a couple of part-time rockstar employees. Our board members' backgrounds include school board leadership, school psychologist, tutoring, special education and preschool education, PR, graphic design, engineer, and public health. We all are here to improve resources and outcomes for students in Minnesota.

Board of Directors

Officers

Kimberly Carlsen - President
Dr. Amy Robinson - Co-Vice President
Laurie Berg - Co-Vice President
Kimberly Dumitrica - Secretary
Heather Smythe - Treasurer

At Large Members

Rachel Depa* - Past President
Evelyn Haselmann
Jasman Myers
Rachel Petersen
Wendy Lundsgaard*

Staff

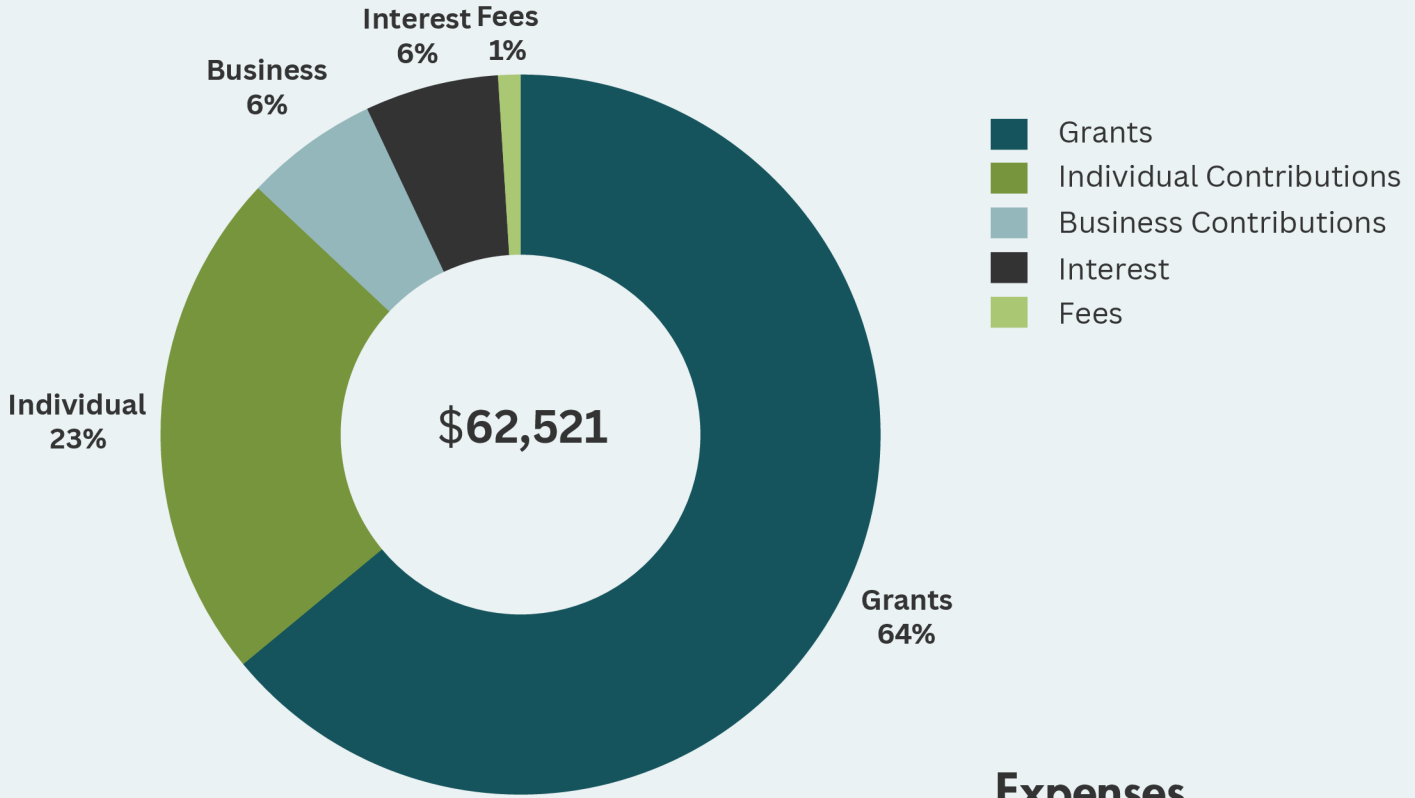
Executive Director
MJ Bauer

Partners for Parents Staff
Kea Knox*

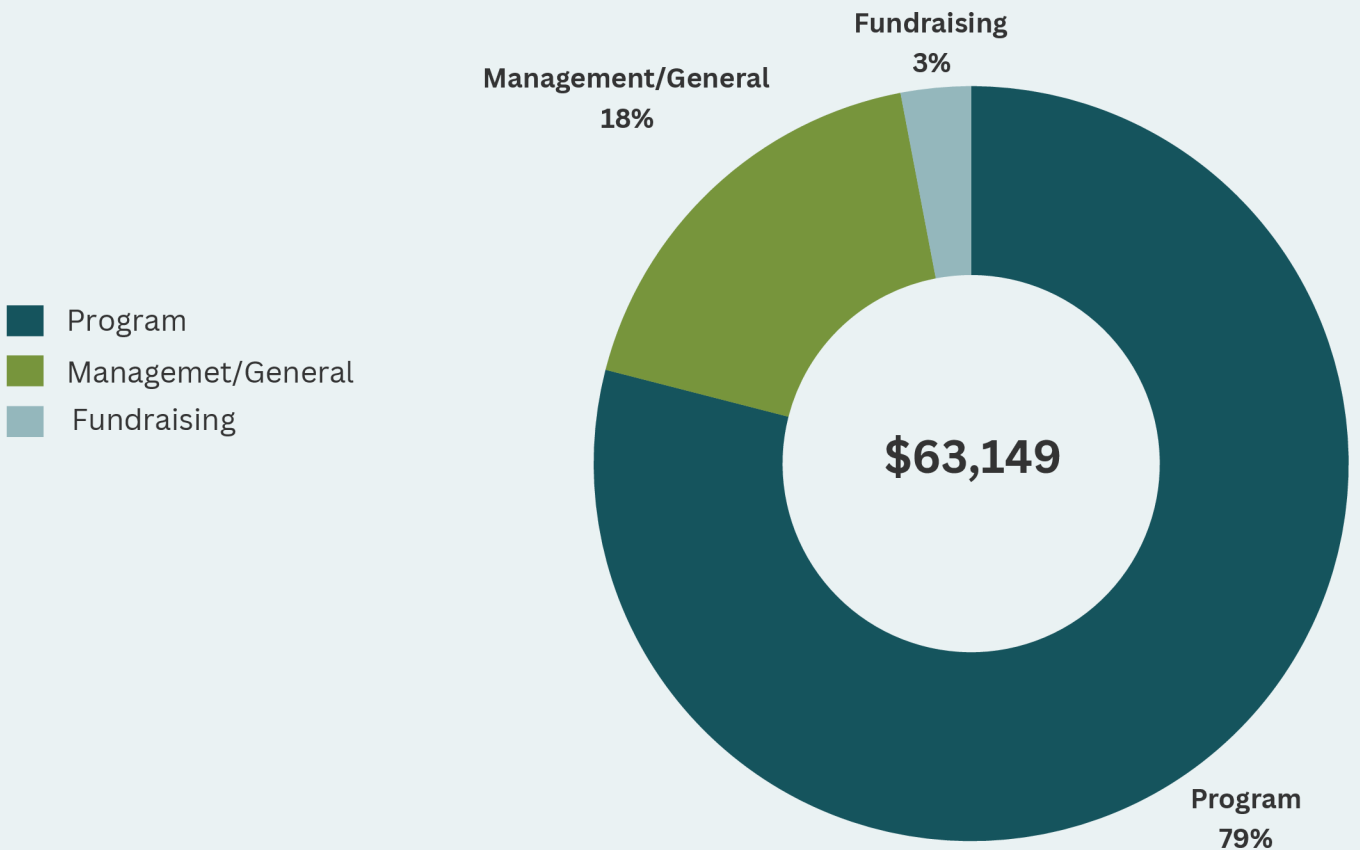
*not pictured

DDMN 2024 FINANCIALS

Revenue



Expenses



SOCIAL MEDIA

We connect with over five thousand families!



@DyslexiaMN



/DyslexiaMN



@DyslexiaMN



decodingdyslexiamn.org



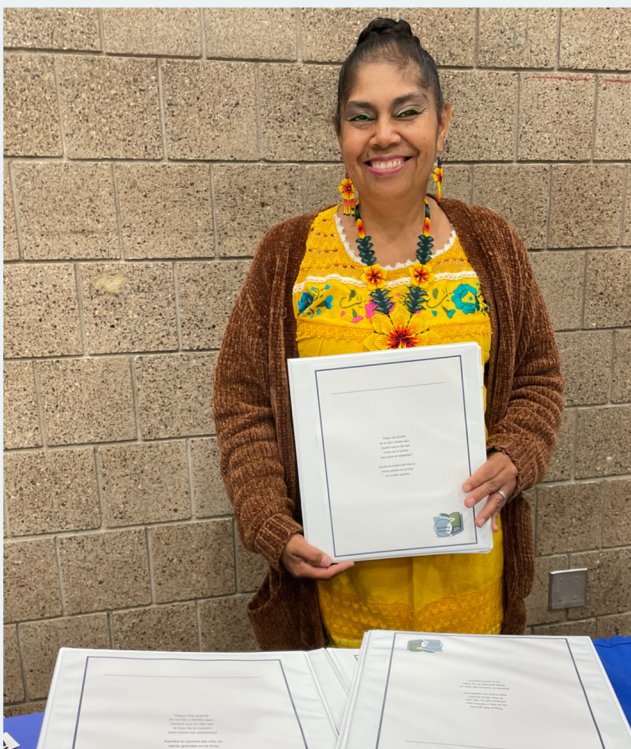
Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota



info@decodingdyslexiamn.org

SUPPORT OUR WORK

We are incredibly grateful for the financial support we received in 2024. Without it, we wouldn't have been able to put on our events or carry out the outreach programs that make such a difference. You can continue to support our mission with a one-time or monthly donation through our website. For larger contributions, feel free to reach out to us via email. Your generosity helps us create lasting change in the lives of children with dyslexia.



"I just want to thank you guys for all the work you do. It has been beyond helpful to have you guys as a resource! I am very thankful to have found out about your organization. Thank you!!"

