

# Kansas-Missouri International Dyslexia Association (KS-MO IDA)

## Student Scholarship Guidelines

Revised: January, 2018

**Goals of the Scholarship Program:** Students with dyslexia/language based learning disabilities often fall behind their peers at school in reading - not just because they have difficulty decoding, but also because they cannot access the material in books the same way as their peers without dyslexia. To help close that gap and to help level the playing field, the Kansas-Missouri branch of the International Dyslexia Association is providing reimbursement scholarships for privately purchased student Learning Ally subscriptions. Learning Ally accounts allow students with dyslexia/specific learning disabilities in reading or reading comprehension to access audiobooks that also have a visual component to them, which can help both auditory and auditory/visual learners.

We understand the many expenses that parents incur in order to obtain appropriate, evidence based tutoring for their children with dyslexia. These scholarships are intended to help offset the many costs parents have by providing students access to audiobooks. Providing these scholarships helps the KS-MO bistate branch of IDA fulfill its mission, taking the lead from the International Dyslexia Association, whose motto is "Until All Can Read."

**Scholarship Committee:** The Scholarship Committee consists of a diverse group of parents and professionals, including KS-MO IDA Board Members, teachers and administrators from both Kansas and Missouri.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

\*Applicants must be a current student in Kansas or Missouri in grades K – 12 with a diagnosed learning disability (private or school-based diagnosis)

\*Applicants must have purchased a personal 1-year Learning Ally account subscription between November 15, 2017 and May 31, 2018 and have the receipt for it to submit to the scholarship committee for reimbursement.

### **Instructions for Completing the Student Scholarship Application**

1. Register and pay for a Learning Ally account on the Learning Ally website: [www.learningally.org](http://www.learningally.org).
2. **Please submit the online application (including uploaded copy of paid Learning Ally registration receipt) by May 31, 2018.** The application can be found on the Kansas-Missouri IDA website, <http://ksmo.dyslexiaida.org/>
3. Please be prepared to answer the following questions on the application. **Please note that you cannot save your answers on the online form and return to it later, so it is advised that you formulate your answers to these questions prior to typing them into the application form.**

You will receive an email copy of your answers after you submit your application to the scholarship committee.

- How did you hear about this scholarship?
  - Has your child used audiobooks previously? From where?
  - What grade was your child in when he/she was officially diagnosed?
  - Where are you on the dyslexia journey (multiple choice)?
  - Why should we award your child a scholarship?
  - Please explain how having a Learning Ally account would benefit your child.
  - Is there any additional information that you feel that the scholarship committee needs to know when considering your application?
  - (For parent): Are you connected to a support network for dyslexia? If not, would you like to be?
  - Would you be interested in learning more about IDA and how it can be helpful to you as a parent of a child with dyslexia?
  - (With your student's input) In your own words, what do you like about Learning Ally audiobooks?
4. Scholarship decisions will be made and applicants will be notified of their status by email. Checks will be mailed to scholarship recipients at the home address listed on the online application. **Up to 15 scholarships will be awarded.**

### **Criteria for Selection of Student Scholarship Recipient**

A number of criteria will be used to select successful applicants. These include:

1. Student resides in Kansas or Missouri and is in grades K-12 for the 2017-2018 academic year
2. Student has a diagnosed learning disability and is therefore eligible for Learning Ally.
3. Parent/student responses to essay questions on application

The committee will make every effort to provide scholarships to geographically diverse applicants from across both Kansas and Missouri. **Scholarships are limited, so you are encouraged to apply early.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Kansas-Missouri IDA Scholarship Committee by email at [ksmoidascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:ksmoidascholarships@gmail.com)