



**Lorraine Hightower**  
Dyslexia Advocate &  
Consultant



## Speaker & Advocate | Dyslexia and Special Education

### Lorraine has spoken at:

- Richmond Legislative functions
- Parent Advocacy Groups
- Loudoun County Schools
- Pediatric Groups
- Community Organizations
- Decoding Dyslexia events

### Interactive & Educational Talks

Lorraine has spoken to parents, educators, legislators, military personnel, pediatricians, government officials on topics ranging from advocacy to legislation and how to help families navigate the special education process.

Her insights and engaging approach provide actionable takeaways for every audience. She is thoughtful and passionate about how to assist teachers, schools, families, and community leaders on how to meaningfully improve the experience of all stakeholders.

### Recent Talks

- What is Dyslexia?
- The Educational Implications of Dyslexia for Teachers & Administrators
- How to Effectively Advocate for your Child
- The Difference between 504 Plans & IEPs
- Advancing Advocacy Efforts through Resolutions & Legislation
- How to Support Pediatric Patients with Disabilities

### Legislation Lorraine has Championed Regarding Special Education

Her advocacy efforts have even reached the Virginia State Legislature and in partnership with parents from Decoding Dyslexia Virginia (DDVA), she has been instrumental in helping to pass three state laws to benefit students with dyslexia and the teachers who work with them.

*Testimonial:* “After first meeting Lorraine at state events and VA PTA Lobby days, I have watched her make a significant, statewide impact for Virginia’s children through her personal advocacy efforts. In a word, she is a warrior.”

- President, Virginia Parent Teacher Association

Have Lorraine speak with your organization [lorrainehightower.com](http://lorrainehightower.com)



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### About Lorraine Hightower

A recognized dyslexia advocate and consultant with proven success, Lorraine's background includes effective collaboration with parents, school administrators, state and national associations as well as elected officials. She is skilled at engaging stakeholders and expanding participant involvement to drive change for families.

Lorraine Hightower waded through the waters of special education and learning disabilities for many years before and after her son was diagnosed with dyslexia. Because of her own experiences, she became an Educational Advocate for dyslexic students everywhere in Virginia.

#### Lorraine is known as an:

- Experienced Advocate - Lorraine has navigated this journey as a parent and knows exactly how to help.
- Dyslexia Specialist - Specializes in dyslexia and working within the education network.
- Compassionate Partner - Lorraine is a voice for families and educators at local and state levels.
- Intentional Communicator - She works with multiple stakeholders to solve the dyslexia puzzle one piece at a time.

### Areas of Expertise

- Mediation
- Special Education
- Dispute Resolution
- Family Advocacy
- Marketing & Communication
- Stakeholder Management
- 504 Plans & IEPs
- Community Outreach

### Awards

- 2018 Honorary Lifetime Membership, VA PTA
- 2016 Child Advocate of the Year
- Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award
- 2014-2016 School of Excellence
- 2014 Friend of Education, Loudoun Education Association (LEA)

### Education

- Certificate - Trained Mediator, NoVa Mediation Services
- Certificate- Dyslexia Training Institute
- Certificate - Institute of Special Education Advocacy, William & Mary Law School
- University of South Carolina - Columbia, BS Degree - Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Administration

“Lorraine’s knowledge of special education, combined with her expertise in how to successfully advocate for students with disabilities and their families, is an asset in productively advocating for positive change from the IEP table to impacting systemic change.”

- Family Information Specialist, Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) & Founding Member of Decoding Dyslexia Virginia (DDVA)

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