**Presenter Guide**

**Dyslexia Awareness Module, Part 2: What causes dyslexia?**

**Purpose:** To assist participants in understanding dyslexia etiology.

**Goals:** Participants will:
- Identify three main potential “causes” of dyslexia
- Develop a plan to use the most relevant information in schools

**Time:** Approximately 30 minutes

**Format:** In-person (or adapted for synchronous online)

**Structure:** PowerPoint presentation and activities

Slide 1: Introduction (5 minutes) whole group
- Introduce topic, purpose, and goals
- Ask participants to “turn and talk” about what they think causes dyslexia and share out

Slides 2-10: Whole group (15 min)
- Presenter reviews these slides
- Notes for the presenter are embedded in the “notes” section of each PPT slide.

Slide 11: How does this information help us? (10 minutes)
- Participants discuss (in groups or partners) which strand of research is most relevant to schools/teachers, and how it is useful
- Return to whole group to discuss
- Brain-based research is interesting, but it does not help teachers/schools
- Genetics might be fascinating, but again, no help to teachers/schools
- Heredity CAN help teachers and schools. If we know that a student has a family member with dyslexia, we can ensure that we monitor that student
- Participants work together to create a plan for their district—how can we get information about family history of dyslexia?
Further resources:

Understood.org:


9.5-minute video by Dr. Guinevere Eden, Director, Center for the Study of Learning, Georgetown University:


Everyday Health:

https://www.everydayhealth.com/dyslexia/causes-myths-questions-answers/