

Date

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

As a (*classroom teacher, special educator, psychologist, administrator, etc...*), I am requesting permission and financing to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Dyslexia Association (IDA). IDA is the oldest organization dedicated to meeting the needs of children, adolescents and adults with dyslexia and related language learning disabilities. Founded in 1949 in the memory of Samuel T. Orton, M.D., neurologist, psychiatrist, pathologist, since its inception, the IDA (formerly the Orton Dyslexia Society), has devoted itself to the mission of transferring research to practice. The timeliness of that mission is very apparent now with legislation such as IDEA 2004 and No Child Left Behind. I would like to attend the conference for (1, 2, 3, 4) days, and the fee for attending the conference as a (*member/nonmember*) is \$\_\_\_\_. In addition, I would need funding to travel to and from Orlando as well as lodging.

Research to Practice (RTI) is the track with the most sessions represented at the Orlando conference. There are symposia and sessions targeted to inform and enhance instructional practices at schools, as well as district wide practices. With the emphasis on early intervention and RTI, there are several symposia devoted to various aspects it, Wednesday through Saturday. There is also an all day preconference (Wednesday) symposium highlighting the latest research on reading. This symposium is Co-chaired by Barbara Foorman, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Crawford, M.S., CCC-SLP, of the Florida Reading Research Center at Florida State University. Their symposium will present research on early reading development as well as how that translates to effective instructional practices. Another all day symposium on Wednesday chaired by Nancy Hennessey, M.Ed., will present the very latest research on the teaching of reading comprehension.

Additionally, IDA incorporates into its conference session's best practices in teaching math, especially appropriate for teaching students with math disabilities. Since this conference is organized in themes, I will be able to focus my attention on attending sessions on reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, fluency, social and emotional concerns, RTI, early intervention, ADHD and much more. There is a track for educators interested in the college student, including a symposium chaired by Lydia Block, Ph.D., devoted to best practices regarding meeting the needs of students with learning disabilities and attention disorders at the college level. Loring Brinckerhoff, Ph.D., from Educational Testing Service, will be addressing attendees on the complexities of disability documentation.

In short, the 60<sup>th</sup> IDA Annual Conference in Orlando will provide the **best opportunity** for me to learn about what is current and effective in the fields of literacy, early intervention, and reading and other language based learning disorders. I hope you will seriously consider my request because I feel this conference will prove to be exceptionally informative and helpful to me as an educator at (*school name*).

Sincerely,

Name