

**Sonya Yates, CALT, NBCT**  
*President*



Sonya Yates is President of the Alabama Branch of the International Dyslexia Association and has served on the organization’s Board of Directors for the past four years.

A Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) and National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), Sonya has certifications in special education, psychometry, and instructional leadership.

She is a member of the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) as well as the Early Literacy National Network through ExcelinEd.

Sonya’s statewide appointments include roles with the Alabama Literacy Task Force, the Alabama Committee on Grade Level Reading, and the Alabama Dyslexia Advisory Council (DAC). A charter member of the DAC since its 2015 creation by the Alabama State Board of Education, Sonya now serves as the council President.

Residing in Spanish Fort, Alabama, Sonya enjoys close proximity to sand and sun, reading a good book, and spending time with her family.

**When did you first learn about dyslexia?**

*I was first introduced to the word dyslexia in college. Instructed that dyslexia was not real and that the school system did not recognize dyslexia in Alabama, I graduated to hear the same thing repeated in school environments over the next few years. When faced with students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade who did not know letter names or sounds, I was unprepared to meet their needs and felt it was imperative I find a way to reach them. It is among my greatest honors to serve Alabama’s educators, parents, and students.*

**Education:**

B.S. - Special Education, Athens State College

M.Ed. - Multi-Learning Handicapped, Alabama A & M University

**Certifications:**

Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT)

National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT)

Special Education PK-12

Psychometry

Dyslexia Therapy

Instructional Leadership