



The 2026 IDA-GA Leadership in Literacy Award

IDA-GA is pleased to present the 2026 Outstanding Service Award to [Missy Purcell](#),

Advocate and Education Chair with Decoding Dyslexia-GA, in recognition of her high professional standards, leadership, and extraordinary efforts to promote and encourage literacy, advocacy, and achievement for individuals with dyslexia.

Missy Purcell holds a degree in middle school education with more than 15 years of experience in the classroom, specializing in inclusion. She is both a speaker and a passionate advocate for the science of reading. After successfully advocating for her dyslexic son's right to read, Missy devoted the bulk of her time volunteering to support countless families of children with learning differences. Missy



is the co-founder of Gwinnett Advocates for Dyslexia, a grassroots organization that advocates for evidence-based instruction in Gwinnett County. Additionally, she serves as the Education Chair with Decoding Dyslexia Georgia (DDGA), which advocates for change at the state level. Missy is married to Mark, the mother of three boys, Harrison, William, and Matthew, and two furbabies, named Barkley and Bauer. When she's not working or advocating, she can be found with coffee in hand at a band concert or the baseball fields cheering on her boys.