



Learning Ally Fact Sheet

What is Learning Ally?

- Learning Ally is a national nonprofit founded in 1948, originally called Recording for the Blind, initially established to help blinded soldiers returning from World War II go to school and re-enter society.
- Since then, the organization has expanded its mission to support people with a wide range of reading disabilities, including blindness, visual impairment, dyslexia, and other learning differences.
- Learning Ally provides an online library of 80,000 accessible audio textbooks and literature titles — the largest of its kind in the world.
- Learning Ally also offers personalized support for families, including a service offering one-on-one consultations with parent support specialists who have successfully navigated the school system with a learning disabled child.
- Teacher Ally gives educators the power to assign books to a student's personal bookshelf, track reading progress, and generate reports to share with parents online.
- With national headquarters in Princeton, NJ, Learning Ally maintains 11 recording studios and community centers around the U.S., where support staff and volunteers work together.

Who uses Learning Ally?

- K-12, college and graduate students, as well as veterans and lifelong learners.
- A documented disability like dyslexia, visual impairment or physical disability is required for membership.
- Approximately 80 percent of Learning Ally's members have dyslexia or a learning disability of some kind; the remainder have a physical disability or are blind or visually impaired.

How does it work?

- Thousands of trained volunteers work with Learning Ally staff to record and produce accessible audiobooks.
- Students can browse the library, order and download audiobooks, and listen/study on PCs and Mac computers, smartphones and tablets running Android or Apple iOS, as well as on specialized assistive technology devices.

Who can volunteer?

- Volunteers are welcome to fill out an online application form at LearningAlly.org to apply for volunteer opportunities.
- Volunteers with subject-area expertise in math and science, and those interested in fundraising, awareness, and other audiobook production needs are especially needed.

How do Learning Ally audiobooks differ from conventional audiobooks?

- Conventional audiobooks are not fully accessible. Learning Ally audiobooks have built-in functionality enabling students to efficiently navigate through the material — they can easily find a certain chapter or page, set multiple bookmarks, and study effectively like any other student.
- Of critical importance for blind readers, Learning Ally audiobooks are read by human narrators who include teachers, doctors, mathematicians, scientists and specialists in every subject — people who can describe in correct language and detail every chart, diagram and illustration.
- More than 65 percent of Learning Ally's library includes core-curriculum textbooks for K-12 and college — with extensive collections in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- Learning Ally VOICEtext, an audiobook format, includes on-screen highlighted text synced with the audio narration.
- Research* shows that when students use accessible audiobooks, they experience 76 percent improved reading comprehension and 52 percent improved reading accuracy.

How is Learning Ally supported and maintained?

- Learning Ally provides individual memberships for \$119 per year, as well as institutional memberships at various pricing levels for K-12 schools, colleges and universities.
- The organization is further funded by grants from state and local education programs, as well as donations from individuals, foundations and corporations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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