About Us

The I-ASC Spellers & Allies Advocacy Network is a group of spellers and allies who advocate together around issues that concern nonspeaking people, such as agency, autonomy, and access. Through public education and advocacy campaigns, we seek to make real change for all nonspeaking people. The Spellers & Allies Advocacy Network welcomes nonspeaking, minimally speaking and unreliably speaking adults above the age of 18. We welcome allies and anyone interested in becoming an ally between the ages of 18-30.

Check Out Our Website!

HOW TO BE AN ALLY

Being an ally for spellers means constructing competence and learning directly from the experts themselves —Spellers.

- Be respectful
  - Presume competence
  - Address nonspeaking people directly
  - Allow spellers time to complete typing or spelling
- Make connections
  - Get to know the speller you are supporting
  - Listen!
- Create partnerships
  - Offer platforms
  - Find potential audiences
  - Attract attention and then pass the microphone to spellers!!
- Be proactive
  - Do your own research
  - Step in when somebody needs support
  - Volunteer your time when work needs to be done
  - Find opportunities, big and small, to learn and re-evaluate

LET'S CHAT!

Our presentations aim to raise educational expectations for nonspeaking people. If you have a business, organization, staff or group who wants to learn more about nonspeakers from nonspeaking people, contact us!

spellers-allies@i-asc.org

I-ASC™

International Association for Spelling as Communication

ACCESS. AGENCY. AUTONOMY

Spellers & Allies Advocacy Network

SPELLERS
& ALLIES
ADVOCACY
I-ASC NETWORK

ADVOCACY NEWS

Our Inclusive Education Campaign aims to raise awareness of the need for change in how nonspeakers are treated in education. This includes informing diverse allies, professionals, and institutions about the positive impacts of S2C on our abilities to communicate and participate in education; the trauma and long-lasting ramifications of being denied education access; and the current, unacceptable status of education access for us.

Through this campaign, we aim to shift misperceptions about our abilities, potential, and rights, and ensure a better future for young nonspeaking students. It involves writing letters to allies, family, and friends.

TESTIMONIAL

"To those who say that there is no published scientific evidence of the efficacy of these pedagogic methods, I say do not close your eyes and mind. The published scientific research that does exist shows that current policies and practices do not enable nonspeakers to communicate robustly. They leave school at age 18 to 21 the way they entered at age 6 - unable to communicate. To learn what does work, come spend a few hours in conversation with me or one of my fellow nonspeakers or go online and watch videos of people like me who use these techniques to communicate."

-My Journey to Communication: A Call for Change in Schools for Nonspeakers
Ben Crimm

OUR INITIATIVES

Interview Project

In-depth conversations between nonspeaking people and speaking people of the same age group rarely happen. We believe that taking the time to get to know nonspeaking, unreliably speaking and minimally speaking people and nurturing genuine relationships is essential to building the leadership alliance and advocacy that we envision. For this reason, we began our advocacy by having conversations with each other.

Raise Expectations

Presuming competence means to always assume that an individual has the ability to think, learn and understand regardless of their outward appearance and/or ability to communicate. During the initial conversations in Spellers & Allies meetings, spellers repeatedly brought up how important this was to them and how they felt that people all around them continue not to presume competence in the ways that they would like. For this reason, we decided to launch an online meme campaign about presuming competence. Are you passionate about presuming competence too? Download our memes from our website for free and share them with your community today!