



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee's teachers are responsible for shaping the minds of the one million students across the state to ensure they have access to a high-quality education and are successful in the classroom, workforce, and life; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's teachers serve as mentors and role models for their students, spending countless hours preparing lessons, creating positive school cultures, building deep partnerships with families and communities, and collaborating with colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's nearly 70,000 K-12 teachers are highly dedicated and go above and beyond the call of duty to educate students across the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's teachers provide positive classroom environments where students can collaborate, learn from each other, and engage in innovative and rigorous teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the State of Tennessee became the first state in the nation to establish a permanent, federally-approved teaching apprenticeship program through the Grow Your Own model, providing innovative, no-cost pathways to strengthen Tennessee's education workforce and ensure high-quality education for generations of Tennessee students; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, the State of Tennessee has invested more than \$480 million in consistent annual pay raises for Tennessee's hard-working and dedicated teachers; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the State of Tennessee, with the partnership of the 113th General Assembly, enacted the Tennessee Teacher Paycheck Protection Act, increasing the minimum salary for teachers to \$50,000 by 2026 and positioning Tennessee as a top-10 state for teacher pay in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is committed to attracting and retaining the best and brightest teachers and will continue to invest in all of our state's exemplary teachers and public education;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

Teacher Appreciation Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-sixth day of April 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State