



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee recognizes the importance of supporting early literacy as foundational for all learning and as a critical milestone for every student for future academic, career and life-long success; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has prioritized academic gains for students over the past decade, continuing under this administration with the foundational goals outlined in the Tennessee Literacy Success Act; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's districts, schools, teachers, elected officials, students, parents, and education stakeholders understand the importance and impact of supporting early literacy; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is aligning educator preparation practices to foundational literacy skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and providing educators with supports to teach these essential skills; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee continues to invest in free reading resources and supports to ensure our early learners and their families are given every opportunity to become strong readers from the start of kindergarten through the third grade, including summer learning programs to help students reach reading proficiency; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has made historic investments to strengthen education for students, including dedicating more than \$2.5 billion in additional state funding for public education since 2019; and

WHEREAS, because of our historic investments, Tennessee students have seen encouraging literacy gains and are outpacing the national average in reading; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee remains committed to strengthening literacy rates for students to ensure that every child can reach their full potential and thrive in the classroom and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as

Literacy 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-fourth day of February 2025.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Hargett

Secretary of State