

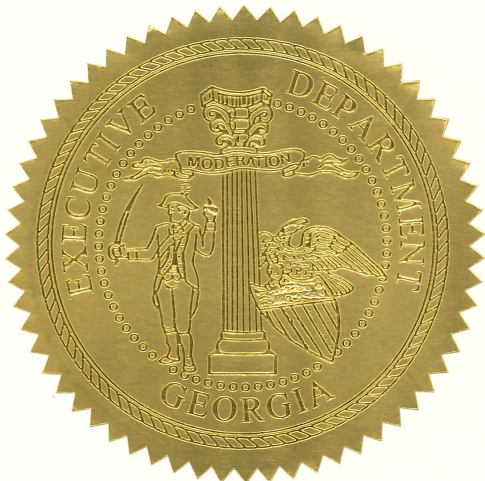
BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

LITERACY MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Strong literacy skills are essential for the development and growth of a community and our nation, and the ability to read by third grade is critical to a child's ability to read and to learn in the future; and
- WHEREAS:** The consequences associated with the inability to read by third grade include the likelihood that the child will not graduate from high school, will live in poverty, have bad health, and be penalized; and
- WHEREAS:** Low literacy is a perpetual cycle, and Georgia currently has 1 million adults who are low literate and are unlikely to acquire a livable wage; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia has a plethora of initiatives and programs designed to improve literacy from birth to adult years. The Georgia Literacy Coordinating Council is aligning efforts for impact and Get Georgia Reading is bringing communities together to create strategies for their citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** Growing Readers is an initiative that has trained 1,760 teachers in Growing Readers strategies which has improved literacy skills for 54,200 K-third grade students since 2015. Additionally, Senate Bill 88 requires public university schools of education to include the teaching of the five fundamental skills of reading instruction; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia recognizes the month of September to focus on reading and literacy skills, including those that begin at birth, and encourages all Georgians to work in their own communities to ensure that all citizens are aware of the resources and tools available to improve reading skills; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as LITERACY MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17th day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Marion Kippenrich

CHIEF OF STAFF