



Proclamation

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 learn in the future; and

WHEREAS, children who struggle with literacy are more likely eventually to drop out of school without earning their high school diploma, have poor health, and struggle to acquire a living wage as an adult; and

WHEREAS, a child's early years play a pivotal role in literacy, as skills learned between birth and age 5 predict literacy in later years, and children who struggle with literacy in kindergarten through third grade are unlikely to catch up to their peers; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has initiatives and programs designed to improve literacy from birth to adult years; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's public libraries are critical to family literacy by providing staff with expertise in literacy, free access to a wide variety of reading materials for all members of the family, programming for parents and caregivers modeling best practices in reading with children, digital literacy and access, and programming for children spanning the full spectrum of literacy; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of a home library go far beyond books, and parents and guardians are a child's first and best teacher; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's school libraries provide librarians that are often co-teach literacy skills and support literacy in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, parents, guardians, and caregivers provide the greatest benefits of family literacy by reading with their children in their native language; and

WHEREAS, access to reading materials is instrumental for literacy among young children, as exposure to more books builds early literacy skills including narrative skills, letter knowledge, comprehension, and vocabulary; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 20-185 and subsequent legislation established the Imagination Library of Colorado whose mission is to champion early childhood literacy and pre-K readiness by ensuring all children living in Colorado grow up with books in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recognizes the month of November as time for each family to focus on reading and early literacy skills and encourages all Coloradans to work hard in their own communities to ensure that all Coloradans are aware of the resources and tools available to improve reading skills and create a culture of reading;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim November 2021 as

FAMILY LITERACY MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of November, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Jared Polis
Governor*