



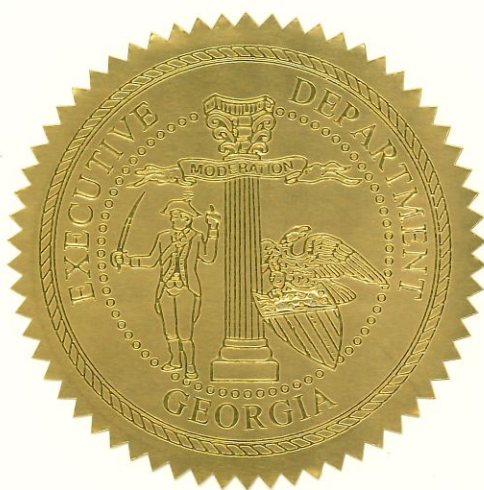
BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### LITERACY MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Strong literacy skills are essential for the development and growth of a strong community, state, and nation; and
- WHEREAS:** The ability to read proficiently by the third grade is critical to a child's ability to read and to learn in the future. 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 nearly 1 million adults who are low literate and are unlikely to acquire a livable wage; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia has a number of initiatives and programs dedicated to improving literacy from birth to adult years. Just this year, Senate Bill 211 established the Georgia Council on Literacy, and HB 538 provided for evidence-based literacy instruction and for the assessment of student needs and literacy levels; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia recognizes the month of September to focus on reading and literacy skills 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 2023, 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



*B. P. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Melvin Kippenrich*

CHIEF OF STAFF