



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA READS DAY

- WHEREAS:** Literacy is not only an education issue, but also a critical driver of Georgia's economic growth, workforce readiness, and the health and well-being of its citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** As of 2024, 63 percent of Georgia's rising fourth grade students are not reading proficiently, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and research consistently shows that students who read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to graduate from high school; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Council on Literacy, established in 2023 by the Georgia General Assembly and supported by the Governor, works in collaboration with education leaders to advance comprehensive reforms to strengthen reading instruction across the state, grounded in the science of reading and aligned with evidence-based practices; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia Reads is a statewide initiative led by the Georgia Council on Literacy, with partners including the Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Forward, members of the General Assembly, and former football champion and children's author Malcolm Mitchell, who serves as the official Georgia Reads Coach; and
- WHEREAS:** On Georgia Reads Day, the State of Georgia will begin a statewide search for ten Georgia Reads Communities to be celebrated in 2026 that have demonstrated measurable success in improving literacy through effective local partnerships; by working together, Georgians can secure a brighter economic and educational future—one reader at a time; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2026, as GEORGIA READS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23rd day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF