



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, teachers provide our children with a quality education to prepare them for college, a great career, and life; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to more than 192,000 teachers serving nearly 2.7 million K-12 public school students statewide and more than 21,000 faculty members at Florida Colleges serving 800,000 students statewide; and

WHEREAS, Florida teachers have shown a deep commitment to offering a high quality education to all Florida students and, as a result, Florida's K-12 students rank seventh in the nation for academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Assessment of Educational Progress report, Florida was the only state in the nation to narrow the achievement gap between White and African American students at both grades 4 and 8 in both reading and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks second in the nation for participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and third in the nation in percentage of graduates who were eligible for college credit based on AP exam scores; and

WHEREAS, the current year's \$18.9 billion budget for Florida public schools is the highest level of funding in Florida history; and

WHEREAS, Florida's high school graduation rates are at an 11-year high of 76.1 percent, a rise of nearly 17 percentage points since 2003-2004, and the Florida College System ranks third in the nation for full and part-time students who graduate in three years or less with an associate's degree; and

WHEREAS, the State University System of Florida six-year graduation rate is ranked second compared to the ten largest states for public four-year universities; and

WHEREAS, Florida parents entrust teachers to educate and mold their students to become productive citizens and successful contributors to Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, Florida teachers often make many sacrifices as they fulfill their responsibilities both in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, teachers deserve the gratitude and esteem of students, parents, and all citizens who benefit from education in Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 4 – 8, 2015, as *Teacher Appreciation Week in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this first day of May, in the year two thousand fifteen.



Governor