



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Reading Week

WHEREAS, the economy demands that our students are prepared with the education and skills necessary to succeed after graduation in both college and careers; and

WHEREAS, every student who does not complete high school costs an estimated \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity; and

WHEREAS, students who are competent readers are more likely to perform well in other subjects; and

WHEREAS, the state has set a goal to double the number of students reading proficiently by third grade by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, reading proficiently by the end of third grade is a crucial indicator in a child's development, including chronic absence, high school graduation, and the possibility of future incarceration; and

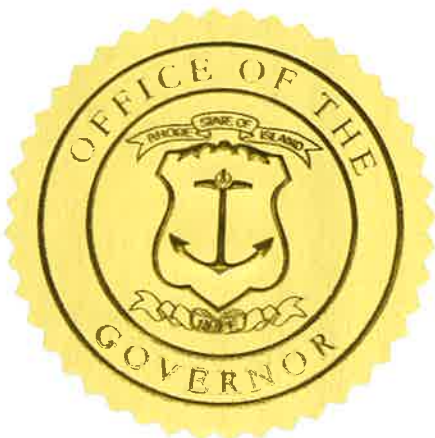
WHEREAS, the Governor's Children's Cabinet has created a comprehensive action plan to meet that goal, which includes public awareness and engagement surrounding the importance of childhood literacy; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island schools and districts are critical partners in this work and leaders in our statewide efforts to provide high-quality literacy instruction that empowers students to become fluent and joyful readers; and

WHEREAS, Reading Week activities have long been a celebrated, inclusive, and engaging way to promote literacy for children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 9 – 13, 2018, as: **Reading Week** in the state and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of literacy.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 7 day of March, 2018



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina M. Raimondo".

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nellie M. Gorbea".

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State