



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 13, 2015

Dear Arizonans,

The school year is winding down, and students across Arizona are eagerly counting the days until summer vacation. As you head out with family and friends for a well-deserved break, remember that the learning doesn't stop when the last bell rings.

In Arizona, we're committed to promoting educational excellence year-round. During the next few months, it's vital that students continue to keep their minds active and engaged, improving on what they learned over the past year and preparing themselves for the next.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to stay sharp during the off-season is by reading. That's why I'm pleased to support Arizona's Summer Reading Collaborative, a great partnership between Read on Arizona, the Arizona State Library, Arizona Department of Education and other organizations dedicated to the important cause of childhood literacy.

Literacy is essential for success in almost every endeavor, field, career, and industry. In fact, research shows that early-childhood reading proficiency is one of the strongest indicators of a student's likelihood of graduating from high school. As we continue to work towards high standards and accountability for all Arizona students, maintaining academic progress from year to year is becoming even more critical. A focus on summer reading can prevent learning losses and keep our children on-track for a successful future.

I encourage you to take advantage of the resources offered by local libraries. Putting down the remote control and picking up a book for a little bit each day will help ensure our students are better prepared for the more rigorous standards we're committed to implementing in Arizona. Finally, encourage those around you to read and share the importance of literacy in our communities and for the future of Arizona.

Together, we can improve literacy, foster academic success and ensure educational excellence for all Arizona children.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona