



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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GOVERNOR

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Governor Rell Encourages Kids to Read at Launch of “2005 Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge”

Launching the “2005 Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge,” Governor M. Jodi Rell stressed today that reading is the most important academic skill of all – “the one that goes farthest in ensuring future success.”

Governor Rell echoed this year’s summer reading challenge theme, depicted on posters and journals, that, “Reading is all about learning, and learning is all about life.”

The Governor told students at Buttonball Lane School in Glastonbury that “picking up a book at your library and enjoying it will help you find out what thousands of Connecticut kids already know – that reading is rewarding and fun.”

“Reading is the most important academic skill, because it opens the door to all other learning,” said Governor Rell. “We want all of Connecticut’s students to develop a joy of reading as they develop their literacy skills.”

The State Department of Education is sending materials to schools and libraries around the state to encourage students to “read, read, read!”

Governor Rell, who was joined at the ceremony by Commissioner of Education Betty J. Sternberg and State Librarian Kendall Wiggin, also recognized 15 schools for their outstanding performance in last summer’s program.

The annual “Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge” is designed to encourage children to read books during the summer, at home and at their public library.

Since the “Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge” was initiated in 1996, Connecticut school children have read more than 5 million books. Last year, students taking part in the program read more than 841,000 books.

According to Commissioner Sternberg, “research shows that reading is vital to a child’s cognitive development. It builds language skills and thinking strategies. It is the

best thing children can do to become better students and it's never too late to start reading more."

For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge, contact the State Department of Education's Office of Communications at 860-713-6548.