



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



May 2009

Dear Superintendent:

It's that time of year again—time to help your students become better readers this summer by encouraging them to participate in **CONNECTICUT READS—the 2009 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge**.

On May 7, 2009, Governor M. Jodi Rell kicked off the Summer Reading Challenge in an effort to highlight the need to have Connecticut's students become better readers. Since the program's initiation, it is estimated that more than seven million books have been read. While these numbers are impressive, the goal is to involve all students and all schools in reading during the summer months. This program and other state initiatives supporting early reading literacy, reading intervention, and assessment are part of a concerted effort to improve the reading skills of Connecticut students.

Many districts already hold a variety of activities to support summer reading and take part in community-wide programs run by their local public libraries. The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge builds upon and links these efforts by reinforcing the importance of reading.

In previous years, all materials regarding the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge were sent directly to schools. This year, all information and materials for the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge can be found on the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320322>, and the State Library Summer Reading Web site at <http://ct.webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=6087>.

I ask that you forward this e-mail to your principals so that they can continue to include the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge in their summer programming.

Please contact Amy Radikas at 860-713-6762 or [amy.radikas@ct.gov](mailto:amy.radikas@ct.gov) if you have any questions about the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan  
Commissioner of Education

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cc: Marion H. Martinez, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership  
Amy Radikas, Education Consultant, Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction  
Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library  
Principals of Public Schools