



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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Dear Superintendents:

Since 2013, North Carolina's public schools have sent nearly one million books home with students thanks to our annual statewide *Give Five – Read Five* campaign and related local efforts. Just last year, 276 schools and organizations in 71 districts collected and distributed nearly 547,000 books to boost summer reading. These accomplishments are tremendous as research shows that reading just five books during the summer can help students reduce learning loss. But even more impressive than the numbers is the enthusiasm and joy I have witnessed as students at local *Give Five – Read Five* events select their own books to take home with them and keep forever.



There is no question that *Give Five – Read Five* makes a real difference in North Carolina. This week, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will once again launch this statewide campaign to encourage parents, businesses, churches, nonprofits and community groups to donate new and gently used books to their local schools. Campaign participants are encouraged to conduct their own *Give Five – Read Five* book drives from now until early June. At that time, donations may be sorted and distributed so young learners have access to quality reading material during the summer months.

This year, however, we are taking the *Give Five – Read Five* campaign one step further. As a part of a new partnership with myON, a division of Capstone, NCDPI is offering every student in the state access to the personalized literacy tool myON Reader. Students at every grade level will be able to use this tool during the summer months to select from thousands of titles and download free books that are well-matched to their reading levels and personal interests. As an added bonus, parents, teachers and others can access data from this tool on how many pages and hours students spend reading. There is even a feature to help measure students' literacy growth while they are away from the classroom. If you would like to ensure that schools in your district can offer students free access to myON Reader this summer, please contact Darren Drye, myON Account Manager, at 704-219-9624 or ddrye@myon.com. Visit <http://thefutureinreading.myon.com/NCGiveFive-ReadFive> to learn more.

We are excited about the many opportunities *Give Five – Read Five* and the new partnership with myON will bring to students this year. For more information, including resources designed to help schools and partners conduct local *Give Five – Read Five* initiatives, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/give5read5/>.

Thank you for your interest in North Carolina's *Give Five – Read Five* campaign. Your support will help students across our state return to school this fall better prepared to learn.

Sincerely,

June Atkinson

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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