PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*
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Dear Educators:

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 *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* and related programs make a real difference in North Carolina. Last week, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) launched this statewide campaign to encourage parents, businesses, churches, nonprofits and community groups to donate new and gently used books to their local schools. We encourage you to partner with parents, business groups and community members to conduct your own *Give Five – Read Five* book drives from now until early June. As you approach the end of the school year, donations may be sorted and distributed so young learners have access to quality reading material during the summer months. In late June, DPI will announce the book collection totals and again reward the schools that collect the most books with a free one-year schoolwide license to an online literacy tool.

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, DPI 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 and teachers may 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. Contact your principal to see if your school will provide students free access to myON Reader this summer.

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 you and your community partners conduct local *Give Five – Read Five* initiatives, visit http://www.ncpublicschools.org/give5read5/ or contact Diane Dulaney at diane.dulaney@dpi.nc.gov.

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

Sincerely,

June St. Clair Atkinson

June Atkinson

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