



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

**Executive Order 2023-07D**

GOVERNOR'S LITERACY CHALLENGE

**WHEREAS**, reading is fundamental; it is the basis for all learning and the ability to read enhances all aspects of life; and

**WHEREAS**, 1.6 million students in Ohio attend 609 traditional public school districts, 49 career technical education centers, 324 community schools, and 7 independent STEM schools, and nearly 170,000 students are enrolled in Ohio's 730 private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half of all entering kindergarteners (over 61,000 children) are not on-track in language and literacy; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio students are making progress post-pandemic, but only 60% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are proficient readers, with proficiency rates among some groups of readers being even lower; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which assesses students across the country on reading proficiency, also shows concerning results for Ohio students, with only 34.56% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and 33.13% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students proficient in reading; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that students who aren't reading proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are four times more likely to leave high school without earning a diploma than their peers that are proficient readers; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 720,856 children under the age of 5 in Ohio, and 375,243 are registered with Imagination Library; and

**WHEREAS**, 11,092,130 books have been sent out by the Imagination Library to Ohio families; and

**WHEREAS**, there are a number of efforts underway in Ohio to improve reading proficiency including:

- Ohio’s Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement which outlines a state literacy framework aimed at promoting evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with the Science of Reading.
- Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant to support schools implementing Ohio’s Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement in becoming model literacy sites.
- Reaching All Students Through Language and Literacy to provide targeted support for accelerated learning in districts most impacted by the pandemic and which serve students of color, English language learners, and students from rural areas.
- Each Child Reads Grant to identify and support students at risk of dyslexia in preschool through first grade.
- PARTNERS Grant to provide direct support for the implementation of the components in the dyslexia laws.
- Ohio Statewide Mathematics and Literacy Tutoring Grant which partners colleges and universities with school districts to provide tutoring to k-12 students in 1-to-1 settings.
- High-Quality Tutoring Programs that local districts can leverage to provide additional supports and services to their students.
- Ohio’s Annual Literacy Academy provides professional learning for educators serving children birth through grade 12 to implement practices aligned to the Science of Reading; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio’s ultimate goal is that every student become a proficient reader, meaning reading at or above grade level; and

**WHEREAS**, with a comprehensive, statewide, coordinated effort we can encourage broader engagement across communities to support literacy achievement for all Ohio students.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Governor’s Children’s Initiative coordinate with interested parties to develop a program to recognize schools that are demonstrating strong implementation of best instructional practices aligned to the Science of Reading and where students are making significant progress in reading.
2. The Governor’s Children’s Initiative coordinate with interested parties to collaborate with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio to develop recommendations for ongoing public-private partnerships aimed at encouraging reading.
3. The Governor’s Children’s Initiative coordinate with interested parties to develop strategies for increasing parental and family involvement in teaching and encouraging reading.
4. The Governor’s Children’s Initiative to work with all state agencies and interested parties to develop a strategy to contribute to the goal of improved reading, including measurable goals.

I signed this Executive Order on March 23, 2023, in Lockland, Ohio, and it will not expire unless rescinded.

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Mike DeWine, Governor

ATTEST:

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Frank LaRose, Secretary of State