

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** many children from low-income families begin school already far behind. Research shows that these children are less likely to be read or spoken to regularly or to have access to books, literacy-rich environments, high-quality early care, or pre-k programs. These interactions have shown to be critical for language development, an important precursor to literacy; and
- Whereas,** 61% of low-income children have no children's books at home; and
- Whereas,** a child's vocabulary as early as age three can predict third grade reading proficiency; and
- Whereas,** children from poverty can hear as many as 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers; and
- Whereas,** according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the congressionally mandated program that is overseen and administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the percentage of fourth-grade public school students performing below the NAEP Proficient level in reading was 78% in West Virginia and 68% nationally in 2022; and
- Whereas,** 37% of fourth-grade public school students nationally and 48% in West Virginia performed below the NAEP Basic level in reading in 2022; and
- Whereas,** parents, other family members, and caregivers can introduce children to literacy and the world of books in different ways, including reading to them; telling stories; teaching letters, words, or numbers; and by visiting a library; and
- Whereas,** to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood literacy, The LiTEArary Society, a national nonprofit organization, invites all residents of the Great State of West Virginia to celebrate *National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day*.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 20, 2024* as:

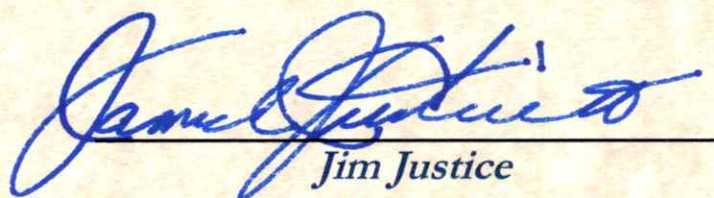
National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

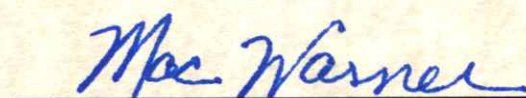
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State