



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS

WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure that Florida's families are empowered to overcome the challenges they may face; and

WHEREAS, one out of every five Americans are either born with or develop a disability during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, all persons with disabilities are protected by federal civil rights laws related to persons with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Educational Equity Act [1000.05], administered by the Office of Equal Educational Opportunity within the Department of Education, requires that persons with disabilities have equal access to all programs, services, and activities in Florida public educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, during the 2017-18 school year, more than 400,000 students with disabilities enrolled in the K-12 Education System, more than 20,500 students with disabilities enrolled in the Florida College System and more than 14,000 students with disabilities enrolled in the State University System; and

WHEREAS, Florida School Districts enrolled more than 4,000 adults with disabilities in Adult General Education, Postsecondary Career and Technical Education programs and more than 100,000 students with disabilities in Secondary Career and Technical Education Programs in 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, Florida is proud of the contributions men and women with unique abilities make to enhance our communities and ensure our success; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we encourage those with unique abilities to use their skills in education, places of employment and throughout their communities in order to continue our commitment of equal opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, the first two weeks of October are used to bring awareness of disability history throughout Florida, and recognize the contributions that individuals with disabilities bring to communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing *Disability History and Awareness Weeks* during the first two weeks in October.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of October, in the year two thousand nineteen.


Governor