



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2008

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Governor Rell's 'Summer Reading Challenge' Will Recognize 19 Connecticut Schools

Governor M. Jodi Rell on Friday will congratulate Connecticut students for reading over 800,000 books during the summer break last year, and will ask students statewide to "make reading a part of your summertime this year," as she issues her reading challenge to Connecticut's children for the upcoming out-of-school months.

Governor Rell will present students and school representatives from throughout the state with certificates of achievement for their reading prowess at a ceremony hosted by the Noah Wallace Elementary School in Farmington on Friday, April 25 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

The Governor will unveil a new summer reading poster that is being sent to schools and libraries this year with the theme: Reading can become "a summer picnic."

"I am proud of the students who will participate in this year's event and the tens of thousands of students across Connecticut who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge last summer. I applaud the dedication of teachers, principals and parents who help foster a love of reading in children," said Governor Rell.

"Reading is a critical skill- one that goes the farthest in ensuring future academic success. The more we can do to help promote reading, especially at an early age, the better our children will do in school. I urge parents to visit our public libraries with their children this summer and to encourage reading for pleasure as much as we can."

The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge was initiated in 1996, and since its inception, more than seven million books have been read. This year 95,000 students participated representing more than 400 schools across the state.

The awards are based on two factors: The average number of books read per student and the percentage of students participating in the challenge.

Following is a list of winning schools:

Governor's 2007 Summer Reading Challenge Winners

Elementary Schools		Participation	Total Books/ Books Per Student
<u>Small</u>			
Goshen	Goshen Center School	100%	3,838 / 18
Willington	Center School	100%	5,436 / 25
<u>Medium</u>			
Farmington	Noah Wallace Elementary	100%	5,617 / 20
Ridgefield	Scotland Elementary	100%	10,479 / 27
<u>Large</u>			
Enfield	Hazardville Memorial Elementary	100%	10,522 / 30
New Haven	Bishop Woods Elementary	100%	8,433 / 34

Middle Schools		Participation	Total Books/ Books Per Student
<u>Small</u>			
Bethany	Amity Middle School	99%	2,889 / 7
Easton	Helen Keller Middle School	100%	1,503 / 4
Ellington	Ellington Middle	100%	1,817 / 4
<u>Medium</u>			
Region 10	Har-Bur Middle School	100%	3,282 / 6
Wilton	Middlebrook Middle School	100%	6,030 / 6
<u>Large</u>			
Greenwich	Western Middle School	99%	2,372 / 5
Trumbull	Madison Middle School	99%	3,033 / 4

High Schools		Participation	Total Books/ Books Per Student
<u>Small</u>			
Litchfield	Litchfield High School	99%	1,125 / 4
<u>Medium</u>			
Wethersfield	Wethersfield High School	91%	1,106 / 2
<u>Large</u>			
Stratford	Bunnell High School	83%	3,798 / 3

Governor's 2007 Summer Reading Challenge Winners

Unique Schools	Participation	Total Books/ Books Per Student
Unified School District II Riverview School	73%	565 / 9



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Independent Schools	Participation	Total Books/ Books Per Student
East Haven St. Vincent de Paul School	100%	507 / 3
West Hartford St. Tomas the Apostle School	67%	1,023 / 11

At the conclusion of the event, the Governor will launch the ‘2008 Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge.’

“When we encourage a love of reading in children, we are encouraging a lifetime of enjoyment. We are also fostering learning and knowledge about the world around us. This means a head start toward achievement in school, success in the workplace, understanding of other people and places, and the satisfaction of a good life,” the Governor said.

The Department of Education is sending materials and posters to schools and libraries around the state to encourage students to be part of “Connecticut Reads 2008: the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge” The campaign helps link the efforts of school and public library summer reading programs, relaying a strong message about the importance of reading to students and parents.

For more information about the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge, students and families can contact the Department of Education’s Office of Communications at 860-713-6548 or visit the web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320322> .