



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Adam Liegeot, 860-524-7313
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Governor Rell To Kick Off 2009 Summer Reading Challenge

Governor M. Jodi Rell will join local schoolchildren and other state officials at the State Library on Thursday at 11 a.m. to kick off the 2009 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, an annual campaign encouraging students to explore the world through books during summer vacation.

The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge began in 1996 and since then it is estimated that Connecticut students have read more than 7 million books.

"Our local public libraries are wonderful resources anytime of the year, but especially in summer when school is out," Governor Rell said. "A library card is a passport to a lifetime of learning."

The Governor also will be joined by State Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan and State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin to recognize and honor the 19 top performing schools in the 2008 Summer Reading Challenge. Schools compete based on student population and grade level. The program identifies the schools with the highest books-per-student count and highest participation.

Schools that will be honored include:

- Killingly Public Schools - Killingly Memorial School
- Orange Public Schools – Peck Place School
- Ridgefield Public Schools - Scotts Ridge Middle School and Scotland Elementary School
- Wolcott Public Schools - Frisbie Elementary School
- Enfield Public Schools - Hazardville Memorial School
- New Haven Public Schools - Bishop Woods School
- Regional School District No. 9 - Helen Keller Middle School
- Regional School District No. 8 - RHAM Middle School
- Ellington Public Schools - Ellington Middle School
- Greenwich Public Schools - Western Middle School

STATE CAPITOL, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TEL: (860) 566-4840, FAX: (860) 524-7396
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- West Hartford Public Schools - Bristow Middle School
- Litchfield Public Schools - Litchfield High School
- New Fairfield Public Schools - New Fairfield High School
- Wallingford Public Schools - Mark T. Sheehan High School
- Avon - Talcott Mountain Academy
- Ridgefield - Saint Mary School
- Wilton - Our Lady of Fatima School
- Unified School District 2 - Riverview School

Many districts already hold a variety of activities to support summer reading and take part in community-wide programs run by their local public libraries. The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge is designed to build upon and to link these efforts to reinforce the critical message regarding the importance of reading.