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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: March 26, 2021

SUBJECT: School Library Month 2021

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2021-15

I am pleased to announce Florida's observance of School Library Month in April 2021. Each year, our school districts and Florida citizens take time to recognize the programs, services and resources provided by school libraries.

School libraries play a critical role in supporting quality learning environments and school librarians directly support and enhance student achievement. Quality library programs close achievement gaps for all learners by providing equitable access to academic resources and by promoting and encouraging a love of reading. Due to the essential correlation between school libraries and student achievement, funding for school library programs remains a priority in the state of Florida.

With the adoption of Florida's B.E.S.T. English Language Arts Standards, which include classic literature from every major literary period, and the release of *Commissioner Corcoran's Back to School Reading List* (<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5673/urlt/BTS-ReadingList.pdf>), a quality library program is instrumental to the success of the standards' implementation.

This celebratory month provides opportunities across the state to highlight school library contributions to Florida public education. School library programs prepare students for lifelong learning, make a measurable difference in student academic achievement and enhance their reading enjoyment. Additionally, School Library Month coincides with National Library Week, which highlights the resources and contributions of all types of libraries. As Albert Einstein famously quipped, "*The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.*"

If you have additional questions, please contact Amber Baumbach in the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support at 850-245-9115 or by email at Amber.Baumbach@fldoe.org.

JO/ab

cc: School District Library Media Supervisors

JACOB OLIVA
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS