

## **PROCLAMATION**

### DECLARING JULY 12-16, 2021, AS PALM BEACH COUNTY SUMMER LEARNING WEEK AND JULY 2021 AS SUMMER LEARNING MONTH

**WHEREAS**, summer represents a significant opportunity for children who have fallen behind to narrow the gap in reading achievement disparities because reading is a vital pathway for learning and future academic success, and literacy is also a protective factor, a needed tool to stay informed, advance knowledge, and advocate for oneself throughout life; and

**WHEREAS**, summer 2020 was disrupted by COVID hardships, many summer camps shifted to virtual or hybrid models with reduced attendance, and the summer break was extended when schools abruptly switched to distance learning in the spring and re-opened later than usual in the fall; and

**WHEREAS**, while summer 2020 learning loss was smaller than summer 2019, the loss is real and persistent year-over-year, which can slow children's progress toward third-grade reading proficiency; leave some children 2½ to 3 years behind their peers by fifth grade; account for up to two-thirds of the achievement gap in ninth-grade reading; and delay or prevent high school graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Palm Beach County School District's i-Ready Diagnostic Assessments for students K-2 between winter and fall 2020 provide repeated, consistent measurements of children's reading skills, allowing for examination for changes that occur in summer; and

**WHEREAS**, students K-2 unexpectedly and counter-intuitively experienced much less loss in summer 2020 than summer 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, almost 13 percent of the students' assessments declined in summer 2020 compared to 54 percent of students in summer 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the reasons for less summer slide are not fully known but may include differences in the i-Ready assessment environment (home v. classroom); and

**WHEREAS**, while more evidence of the summer 2020 impact may be revealed when students return to school in person in Fall 2021, sociodemographic characteristics compiled thus far show those with more challenges at the onset of COVID were most impacted, including:

- **Grade Level:** Reading skill loss (as in summer 2019) again increased steadily as students advance, with just under 6 percent of Kindergarten students experiencing reading score loss, almost 12 percent of first-grade students, and more than 19 percent of second-graders;
- **Reading Performance:** Reading loss was most substantial among students already behind, with 19 percent of those students with the lowest reading proficiency experiencing loss, compared with 10 percent of those performing on grade level and 9 percent of those above grade level;
- **Income:** Two-thirds (68 percent) of students in K-2 receive free and reduced lunch, and among those who do, about 14 percent showed lowered reading scores compared with about 9 percent of those students who do not receive FRL;
- **Race:** Black and Hispanic K-2 students showed greater reading loss (15 percent and 13 percent, respectively) than White (10 percent), multi-racial (8 percent) and Asian (7 percent) students;
- **English Proficiency:** K-2 students identified with Limited English Proficiency showed a greater loss in reading skills (16 percent) than those not identified as LEP (11 percent);

- **Learning Environment:** A new measurement in summer 2020 tracked students who, at the time of this analysis, received distance learning compared with those participating in-person at school. Those K-2 students learning at home showed less loss (10 percent) than those participating at school (13 percent);
- **Special Education Status:** ESE students showed significantly greater losses in reading proficiency (17 percent) than non-ESE students (12 percent);
- **Gender:** Male K-2 students are more apt to lose reading proficiency (14 percent) than female students (11 percent); and

**WHEREAS**, the week of July 12-16, 2021, is designated as national “Summer Learning Week 2021” and July 2021 is designated as Summer Learning Month to remind our community of the importance of keeping children learning, safe and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to learn and succeed in the year ahead;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY that the following will be observed:**

**The week of July 12-16, 2021, is Palm Beach County Summer Learning Week and July 2021 is Summer Learning Month**

The foregoing Proclamation was offered by Council Member Vincent Goodman, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kathleen Kroll, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Thomas Bean                | YES     |
| Elisa Cramer               | YES     |
| Donald E. Fennoy, II Ed.D. | ABSENT  |
| Vincent Goodman            | YES     |
| Kathleen Kroll             | YES     |
| Jose Luis Rodriguez, Esq.  | YES     |
| Maria Sachs                | VIRTUAL |
| Debra Robinson, M.D.       | YES     |
| Thomas P. Weber            | ABSENT  |

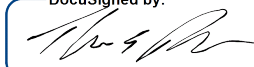
The Chairman thereupon declared the Proclamation duly adopted this 8th day of July, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

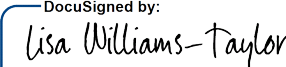
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Debra E. Gotlib  
Attorney for Children’s Services Council  
of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN’S SERVICES COUNCIL  
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

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Thomas Bean, Chair

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Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer