



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

AMERICAN FOUNDERS' MONTH AND CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, in recognition of the contributions of the founders of the United States, Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes, designates the month of September as American Founders' Month; and

WHEREAS, Section 1003.421, Florida Statutes, designates the last full week of September in Florida's schools as Celebrate Freedom Week to recognize the sacrifices made for our nation's great freedoms and timeless truths; and

WHEREAS, it is important to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions that all citizens have made, and continue to make, in Florida and across our nation; and

WHEREAS, Florida schools are encouraged to engage in instruction relating to the contributions of our founding fathers, including in-depth study of the Declaration of Independence, a historic document that laid the foundation for the future prosperity of our nation and helped establish a government based on individual liberties and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards eliminated Common Core and made Florida the first state in the nation to embed civics education in English Language Arts (ELA) standards from kindergarten through grade 12. The B.E.S.T. Standards for ELA include a civic literacy reading list with foundational documents; and

WHEREAS, Florida is in the first year of the multi-year Florida Civics and Debate Initiative, which increases access for all students throughout the state to participate in speech and debate programs and give them greater knowledge of constitutional, legal and societal issues in our nation; and

WHEREAS, American Founders' Month and Celebrate Freedom Week in Florida is an important opportunity to commemorate the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 2020, as *American Founders' Month in Florida* and the last full week of public school classes in September as *Celebrate Freedom Week in Florida*.



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 September, in the year two thousand twenty.



Governor