



6th Annual Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

~First Lady Ann Scott and students share celebration's theme: "Reading Accelerates Success"~

Yesterday, First Lady Ann Scott joined students at American Senior High School in Miami-Dade to kick off her statewide literacy tour in observance of [Celebrate Literacy Week \(CLW\), Florida!](#) The initiative brings together education leaders and volunteers to promote the importance of literacy. This year's theme "Reading Accelerates Success" connects the value of literacy with careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! provides many opportunities to engage schools, students, teachers and families in reading. Our students are best served when the greater community is involved in education and this weeklong celebration supports partnerships between state and local agencies, community organizations and schools while encouraging students to read each day.

If you haven't marked this special event in your classroom, I encourage you to participate in Florida's Million Minute Marathon this week. The marathon is a special program that encourages students from across the state to read for an additional 20 minutes during the school day in celebration of literacy. The goal for 2014 is 33 million minutes, up from the 2013 goal of 30 million minutes.

I thank our educators and Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! partners for their efforts in promoting the critical skill of reading both inside and outside our classrooms. You can view pictures and videos from CLW events (and add your own) on the department's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Sincerely,

Pam Stewart
Commissioner of Education

2014 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Educational Partners



Teacher Opportunities

Tuition Waiver for Classroom Teachers

During the 2010 legislative session, [Section 1009.26, Florida Statutes](#), was amended to authorize colleges and universities to waive tuition and associated matriculation fees for classroom teachers.

Florida College System institutions and state universities may waive up to six credit hours per term for teachers employed full-time by a school district, including public charter school teachers. Qualified students may only enroll in undergraduate courses in mathematics, science or special education.

All undergraduate courses with levels one through four in a discipline with an approved prefix shall be eligible for the waiver on a space-available basis. The Course Prefix Listing Approved for the Teacher Waiver may be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation>.

Please contact your institution of choice for specific enrollment information. A list of Florida College System institutions may be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/fcs/> and a list of state universities system institutions may be found at <http://www.flbog.edu/aboutsus/universities/>.

2014 Black History Month Student and Teacher Contests Open

Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott invite K-12 students to participate in the 2014 Black History Month art and essay contests. The student contests focus on the theme "Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream: 50 Years in Action."

About the Student Contests

Art Contest for Grades K-3 – The Black History Month art contest is open to all Florida students in grades K-3, and two winners will be selected.

Essay Contest for Grades 4-12 – The Black History Month essay contest is open to all Florida students in grades 4 through 12. Three winners will be selected: one elementary student (grades 4-5), one middle-school student (grades 6-8), and one high school student (grades 9-12). Winners will receive a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

Resources

Single Sign-On (SSO) Portal

The Florida Department of Education's [Single Sign-On Portal](#) is a secure and efficient system providing easy access to statewide educational resources for educators and school staff using a single username and password.

You can now access CPALMS (www.cplams.org) and Florida School Leaders (FSL) (www.floridaschoolleaders.org) with your Single Sign-On credentials with more educational resources coming soon!

Who can access SSO?

Each Florida school district created accounts for teachers, staff and administrators, including charter schools employees. As a Florida public educator, you do not need to create an account, one is provided.

How do I log into my account for the first-time?

Go to www.fldoe.org/sso and click the yellow LOGIN button on the upper-right side. You will need to select your organization and enter a username and password.

If your school district is specifically listed in the organization drop-down menu, than your school district is federated. Select it from the drop-down menu and click "Continue to Sign In," and enter the same username and password that is used to log into your local network.

If your school district is not listed, your school district is hosted; select "SSO Hosted Users," click "Continue

About the Excellence in Education Award

Governor Scott's annual Black History Month Excellence in Education Award contest is open to all African-American, full time educators in an elementary, middle or high school in Florida. Three winners will be selected: one elementary (K-5) teacher, one middle school (6-8) teacher and one high school (9-12) teacher.

All entry forms and guidelines for the contests can be found at www.FloridaBlackHistory.com.

Information about the contests and Florida's Black History Month is available on Florida's Black History Month website at www.FloridaBlackHistory.com.

Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative's PLANT CAMP 2014 Application Now Open!

The University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants is looking for 24 science teachers (upper elementary, middle or high school) who are interested in attending PLANT CAMP 2014.

This five-day workshop, from June 16-20, 2014, is designed for teachers interested in learning more about the 130-plus invasive plant species invading Florida's natural areas and neighborhoods as well as the native flora and fauna that make our state so unique.

Hands-on field and lab experiences will strengthen background knowledge and confidence for teaching this subject, while also providing 32 hours of professional development credit. PLANT CAMP graduates return to their classrooms with an abundance of activities and resource materials (estimated \$500 value). Learn more about this opportunity at Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative.

Free Florida Humanities Council Workshops for Teachers

This spring, Florida teachers have an opportunity to spend a weekend expanding their horizons – out of the classroom – at a FREE Florida Humanities Council workshop. Participants meet and talk with noted Florida authors and artists, engage community leaders, visit museums, historical sites and other points of interest.

Topics include: Colonial St. Augustine, Florida Agriculture, Civil Rights, the Seminole Tribe, Civics and the Civil War in Florida. Leading scholars conduct each session and incorporate hands-on experiences appropriate to the topic.

The programs are held throughout the state and are open to all Florida teachers. Each seminar is limited to 40 K-12 teachers, including media specialists and counselors. In-service credit is available. Applications and program descriptions can be obtained from the Florida Humanities Council at www.floridahumanities.org/teachers, by calling 727-873-2006, or by emailing lberlin@flahum.org. The application deadline is February 7, 2014. To participate for free, please reference promo code: FLDOE.

Research Experiences for Teachers

Florida State University and the National High Magnetic Field lab will host their annual Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in June 2014. RET is a professional development program that brings elementary, middle and high school teachers to the Magnet Lab for six weeks.

Teachers work with resident scientists on projects related to high magnetic fields and engage in education related topics that can help translate program information to classroom materials. To view the program's application, visit <http://www.magnet.fsu.edu/education/ret/>. If you have any questions, contact Jose Sanchez at sanchez@magnet.fsu.edu or 850-645-0033.

to Sign In," and enter the username and password emailed to you from svc-fim-service@fldoe.org. To check your account status, look up your local support contact on the SSO page.

If you need help logging in, try the Login Assistant tutorial or contact fldoe-ss@fldoe.org.

I already have a CPALMS or FSL account?

Once logged into the department's SSO portal, click on an available resource and follow the steps to combine it into one SSO account. See ["Connecting Your Existing CPALMS or Florida School Leaders Account with FLDOE SSO"](#) (PDF) for step-by-step instructions.

What if I have more than one SSO account?

The only SSO account you need for www.fldoe.org/ss is the one that was created by your school district. If you created a self-registered account, contact fldoe-ss@fldoe.org to disable it. Self-registered accounts don't have the same level of access to educator resources, so it's best to use the district-provided account.

Want to know more? Visit www.fldoe.org/ss for more information, tutorials and links to local contacts for support.

Teacher Discounts

Want a comprehensive list of national retailers and companies that offer educator discounts?

Check out BestCollegesOnline.com's list of more than 100 stores offering discounts, including Lowe's, Michael's, Office Depot, Apple Store, Macy's and Starbucks.

Check out the complete list here: [100+ Stores That Give a Teacher Discount](#).

Want to stay up to date with education news in Florida? Then "like" the Florida Department of Education on Facebook and "follow" on Twitter.



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Thank you for your commitment to Florida's K-12 students.