



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

DATE: May 16, 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge

Get ready for summer! Encourage students to kick back with a book and have fun and enriching reading experiences. A strong body of research shows that students benefit when they immerse their minds and imaginations in books over the summer months. CONNECTICUT READS, the 2022 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, promotes summer reading, exploration, and discovery. This year's summer camp related theme, *Read Beyond the Beaten Path*, will cultivate curiosity and creativity.

The Connecticut State Department of Education's dedicated CONNECTICUT READS website features amazing camp and adventure themed books, as well as classic book titles, that students will enjoy during the long days of summer. Book lists and printable summer reading promotional materials can be found on CT Learning Hub website at <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub/Summer-Learning-Hub>.

Many districts use the CONNECTICUT READS promotional materials to make a splash and generate excitement for summer reading, and strive to coordinate their activities with high-quality community-wide programs run by their local public libraries. School and public library partnerships increase students' access to books and reading activities during the summer months. CONNECTICUT READS builds upon and links these efforts by reinforcing the importance of reading.

In service to families, the Connecticut State Library's statewide eGo, eBook platform, is now available through many local public libraries, and provides access to digital resources for all ages. This service gives families access to a "virtual beach bag" of books to promote summer learning. For a list of local public libraries currently offering eGo, visit <https://egoct.org>.

As we strive to meet the educational needs of all Connecticut's students, I ask that you forward this communication to your principals and literacy leaders so that they can include all materials in their summer programming. Thank you for the amazing work you are doing for the students of Connecticut.

Please contact Dr. Joanne R. White, Education Consultant, at Joanne.White@ct.gov if you have any questions.

CRT:jw

cc: Desi D. Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner, CSDE
Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE
Deborah Schander, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library
Dr. Joanne R. White, Education Consultant, CSDE