



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, thousands of Florida children and adolescents are affected by bullying annually; and

WHEREAS, targets of bullying are more likely to develop physical, emotional, and learning problems, and students who are repeatedly bullied often fear such activities as riding the bus, going to school, and attending community activities; and

WHEREAS, children who bully are at greater risk of engaging in more serious violent behaviors; and

WHEREAS, children who witness bullying often feel less secure, more fearful and intimidated; and

WHEREAS, Florida school districts have developed anti-bullying policies and procedures to encourage positive behaviors and to address bullying behaviors; and

WHEREAS, National Bullying Prevention Month encourages parents, students, teachers and school administrators to be aware of when bullying occurs and to work together to increase awareness about bullying and how to prevent it; and

WHEREAS, schools that focus on teaching kindness can reduce bullying, and have multiple positive outcomes for students, including a greater sense of belonging, improved self-esteem, improved mental and physical health, increased feelings of gratitude, and better concentration to improve academic achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing October 2018 as *Bullying Prevention Month in Florida* and urge all Floridians to support activities that promote healthy child, youth and character development.

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 11th day of September, in the year two thousand eighteen.




Governor