



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, for all people, a sound quality of life depends on our overall health and well being – including the function of our five senses – and as sight is especially precious, New Yorkers join to support causes which raise awareness of children's healthcare with regard to their vision and that serve to remind parents and guardians to include regular eye examinations as part of a child's routine healthcare; and

Whereas, at this time, children across New York State are preparing for the start of another school year, however, many of them will begin their studies with undiagnosed and untreated vision problems since the majority of children do not undergo an eye examination by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist (eye doctor) before they enter school; and

Whereas, research shows that vision disorders are the number one handicapping condition of children, whereby an estimated one in four school-age children have a vision problem that causes difficulty and frustration for them in school, and sixty percent of those students identified as "problem learners" have vision problems that are undetected; and

Whereas, sight is perhaps the sense we all rely on most and, for children, good vision helps them perform better not only in school where they read, write and work on computers, but in other aspects of their daily lives, from crossing the street, to taking notes at school, to playing in the schoolyard; as children grow, sight enhances their overall life experiences and improves their ability to interact with people and the world outside; and

Whereas, all children deserve the opportunity to learn and achieve their full potential, and efforts to increase public awareness about learning-related vision problems are beneficial to ensuring that young people receive prompt and proper vision treatment needed to improve the quality of their lives in and out of school; and

Whereas, as the first legally blind Governor in the United States and as someone who understands the challenges of living with limited eyesight, I am especially aware of the difficulties facing those with any form of vision disability and remind parents, educators, school nurses and all concerned adults of the critical role vision plays in the learning process, to address external factors that cause damage to children's vision, and to take steps to diminish the harmful effects that untreated vision problems can have on their ability to read and learn; furthermore, all New Yorkers join in supporting the worthy goals of this observance: to focus on children's eye care by taking them for regular examinations and attending to any vision problems;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 2010 as

CHILDREN'S VISION AND LEARNING MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth
day of July in the year two thousand ten.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Lance Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor