



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**CHILDCARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY**

**WHEREAS, Florida is a national leader in education and supports all students and educators in its mission to provide the highest-quality education system in the nation, including our earliest learners and early care and education (ECE) providers; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), the Division of Early Learning (DEL), the Department of Children and Families, the state's 30 early learning coalitions and other key partners and stakeholders recognize the vital contributions of ECE providers; and**

**WHEREAS, Providers Appreciation Day is dedicated to honoring Florida's ECE providers for their unwavering commitment to facilitating high-quality care and early learning; and**

**WHEREAS, 90 percent of brain development occurs by age 5, and childcare workers, including teachers and childcare professionals, are essential to providing opportunities for care and educational support for the children of working parents and Florida's communities; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida is home to 1.3 million children under the age of 6, and more than 345,000 children attended one of the state's early education programs in 2020-21; and**

**WHEREAS, there are more than 11,000 childcare programs in the state that support working families, including small and large private businesses, family childcare homes, faith-based programs and public school settings; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, along with FDOE and DEL, have made it a priority to strategically allocate resources to ECE providers throughout the pandemic, including more than \$1.7 billion to keep ECE providers open and able to serve families safely; and**

**WHEREAS, the dedication of ECE providers enabled more than 40 percent of providers to remain open at the height of the pandemic ensuring that child care services remained open for first responders, and 99 percent open by October 2020; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature recognized the continued commitment of each Florida ECE classroom teacher with two \$1,000 disaster relief checks and record funding boosts for School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis remains committed to ensuring that every student, regardless of zip code or family circumstances, continues to have access to the highest-quality education system in the country; and**

**WHEREAS, high-quality early education experiences give young children the best start in school and life so families, communities, the state and nation can thrive.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing May 6, 2022, as *Childcare Provider Appreciation Day*.**



**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 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year two thousand twenty-two.**

  
Governor