



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Florida's children deserve access to the highest-quality education possible; and

WHEREAS, school choice allows families to explore and identify the best education options available to serve their child's needs; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, we recognize the essential role that an education plays in preparing children to become great citizens and successful adults. That is why Florida offers a variety of educational choice options that include many different types of public and non-public schools, as well as programs for families who educate their children in the home; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2023, Governor Ron Desantis signed into law House Bill 1, a historic expansion of Florida's Family Empowerment Scholarship, to create universal school choice across the state; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks Number One for education freedom on the American Legislative Exchange Council's *Index of State Education Freedom: A 50-State Guide to Parental Empowerment's Report Card on American Education*; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Foundation ranks Florida first in the nation on the Education Freedom Report Card for the second year in a row, which ranks each state's level of education freedom; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks first in the nation for parent involvement in education on the Center for Education Reform's Parent Power! National Overview; and

WHEREAS, during the 2023-24 school year, 397,000 students were enrolled in 738 charter schools throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, School Choice Week in Florida is recognized across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools, and organizations to raise awareness of the need for educational freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron Desantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing January 22-28, 2024, as *School Choice Week in Florida*.



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 22nd day of January, in the year two thousand twenty-four.

A blue ink signature of Ron Desantis, written in a cursive style.

Governor