

WHEREAS; the ability to read, write, and engage in continuous learning is vital for personal and community growth, empowering individuals to achieve their goals and enrich their lives, pursue higher education, secure better employment opportunities, and actively participate in society; and

WHEREAS; the National Literacy Institute estimates that 21 percent of adults nationwide are illiterate, and 54 percent read below the equivalent of a sixth-grade level, creating a multigenerational challenge with high societal costs as it affects an individual’s ability to navigate employment, access healthcare, understand legal documents, and more; and

WHEREAS; adult education and family literacy programs across Wisconsin offer continued literacy education for Wisconsinites, including in reading, writing, English language learning, digital literacy, workforce readiness, and health literacy; and

WHEREAS; through strong foundational education, ongoing collaborative efforts, and continued community partnerships, Wisconsin continues to make significant strides toward improving literacy, promoting lifelong learning, and fostering a more inclusive and engaged society; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins literacy advocates, organizations, educators, and librarians in championing the importance of lifelong literacy and celebrating all individuals who contribute to the success and advancement of literacy in Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 2026 as

NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 26th day of August 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State