

WHEREAS; this month, approximately 860,000 public school students, 63,000 teachers, and an additional 48,000 full-time staff are scheduled to return to learning in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; likewise, more than 500,000 students will begin a new academic year through one of the 52 colleges and universities throughout our state that comprise the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the University of Wisconsin System; and

WHEREAS; with the emergence of the Delta variant, it has become clear that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to present challenges in our schools, colleges, universities, and communities as we move into this new academic year, but our state remains steadfast in its belief that education is essential, providing opportunity, support, and resources, and planting the seeds of imagination, inspiration, and hope for countless kids and people of all ages; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that what is best for our kids is what is best for our state, and that our kids benefit from educators who feel inspired and empowered to provide engaging learning that motivates their students to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin also recognizes that access to education serves as one of the clearest indicators of general quality of life and social attitudes, and is highly correlated with factors like employment status, income, positive attitudes, and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS; we commend the resourcefulness and resilience of the thousands of students, families, and educators across our state who have adapted under extraordinary circumstances since the spring of 2020, and who remain committed to facilitating learning environments that are both as engaging and safe as possible; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in reaffirming its commitment to ensuring a quality education is accessible to every child in our state—no matter their background, income level, housing status, or ZIP code—and in wishing all educational institutions a safe and successful academic year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 2021 as

BACK TO SCHOOL 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 25th day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State