



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS

WHEREAS, Floridians with unique abilities play an important role in our communities, families, and workplaces; and

WHEREAS, individuals with unique abilities, including students, parents, employees, employers and policy-makers, enrich our lives and help provide equal opportunity to all Floridians; and

WHEREAS, all persons with disabilities are protected by federal civil rights laws related to persons with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Educational Equity Act [1000.05], administered by the Office of Equal Educational Opportunity within the Department of Education, requires that persons with unique abilities have equal access to all programs, services, and activities in Florida public educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, during the 2019-20 school year, there were over 400,000 students with unique abilities enrolled in the K-12 Education System, and in 2018-19 over 20,932 students with unique abilities enrolled in the Florida College System and over 22,000 students with unique abilities enrolled in the State University System; and

WHEREAS, in 2018-19, the Division of Career and Adult Education enrolled over 3,600 adults with unique abilities in Adult General Education and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education programs and more than 110,000 students with disabilities in Secondary Career and Technical Education programs; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation helps individuals with unique abilities become part of America's workforce, and in 2019-20, served 49,661 Floridians and assisted another 5,389 in finding or keeping jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS) is dedicated to ensuring that Floridians who are blind or have a visual impairment have the tools, support and opportunities to achieve success; in 2019-2020, DBS helped 822 individuals achieve successful employment outcomes, and 11,562 individuals in becoming more successful in school, community and work; and

WHEREAS, I am committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all Floridians and encourage those with unique abilities to use their time and talents to benefit their communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida is proud of the contributions men and women with unique abilities make to enhance our communities and ensure our success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing *Disability History and Awareness Weeks* during the first two weeks in October.



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 1st day of October, in the year two thousand twenty.



Governor