



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 system plays in preparing children to become great citizens and successful adults and we offer many types of public and non-public schools, as well as programs for families who educate their children in the home; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks second in the nation on EdChoice's Educational Choice Share that ranks states based on percentage of students in school choice programs; and

WHEREAS, the American Federation for Children ranks Florida's Tax Credit Scholarship program and Hope Scholarship Program number one and two, respectively, for tax credit scholarships programs, and ranks the McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities number one for special education scholarship program among all school choice programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, during the 2020-21 school year, the Florida Department of Education, in collaboration with its Scholarship Funding Organizations, collectively funded more than 192,900 scholarships, more than 55% of which were funded with private donations, for students with special needs, students from low-middle income families, students who have endured bullying, and students who struggle with reading; and

WHEREAS, during the 2020-21 school year, more than 340,000 students were enrolled in 687 charter schools in 48 Florida districts; and

WHEREAS, Florida remains a nationally-recognized leader in K-12 virtual education, with all school districts offering full and part-time programs and courses, and the largest state virtual school in the nation, Florida Virtual School; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill 7045, the largest expansion of K-12 school choice options for students with unique abilities and low-income families in Florida's history, to ensure they have access to a world-class education that fits the needs of each child.

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law Senate Bill 1028, the most expansive update to charter school legislation since 2005, to expand the authorization of charter school sponsors by allowing the Florida College System and State University System to solicit applications and sponsor charter schools.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing January 23-29, 2022, 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 23rd day of January, in the year two thousand twenty-two.

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

Governor