

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R25-0875.04 Katelyn Guderian x3205

SJR25-007

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Taggart, Bird

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25-007

101 **CONCERNING PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 14 AS "COLORADO READ TO**
102 **YOUR CHILD DAY".**

1 WHEREAS, The most important activity for setting the foundation
2 for future literacy success is reading aloud to children; and

3 WHEREAS, Strong literacy skills are essential for the
4 development and growth of a community and our nation, and the ability
5 to read by third grade is critical to a child's ability to learn in the future;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Children who struggle with literacy are more likely
8 to eventually drop out of school without earning their high school
9 diploma, have poor health, and struggle to acquire a living wage as an
10 adult; and

11 WHEREAS, A child's early years play a pivotal role in literacy, as
12 90% of a child's brain has developed by age five, and skills learned
13 between birth and age five predict literacy in later years; and

14 WHEREAS, Children who struggle with literacy in kindergarten

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

SENATE
Final Reading
February 14, 2025

1 through third grade are unlikely to catch up to their peers; and

2 WHEREAS, When children are read to aloud from birth, they are
3 exposed to significantly more words in their early years, improving their
4 vocabulary, comprehension and literacy skills, and increasing overall
5 brain development; and

6 WHEREAS, Children who experience this early exposure to books
7 and have access to home libraries develop stronger language skills by the
8 time they start school and are more likely to develop a lasting interest in
9 reading and learning; and

10 WHEREAS, When caregivers or loved ones read to children
11 regularly, they build nurturing bonds that are vital for the child's cognitive
12 and social-emotional health. Reading together provides positive attention
13 from caring adults and creates a sense of security, while reducing stress
14 and the negative impacts of adverse childhood experiences; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 30 years of research demonstrates that
16 reading aloud to a child accelerates development and boosts overall
17 kindergarten readiness. Evidence also indicates that when children enter
18 school with the developmental skills and foundation to succeed, the
19 results of this early intervention last a lifetime; now, therefore,

20 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
21 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

22 That we, the members of the General Assembly, declare the state's
23 commitment to birth-to-age-five early literacy by acknowledging
24 February 14, 2025, as "Colorado Read to Your Child Day" in alignment
25 with "National Read to Your Child Day".

26 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
27 to the Reach Out and Read Colorado and Imagination Library of
28 Colorado organizations.