

The City of Boston



PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:** *Literacy skills are fundamental to success in all areas of life and an individual's ability to read is a direct link to economic security, access to health care and the ability to effectively participate in society; AND*
- Whereas:** *80% of 4th graders from low-income families in the US are not proficient readers, 26% of these students will not graduate from high school and 61% of low-income families in the US do not have age appropriate books; AND*
- Whereas:** *Early childhood education, closing the achievement gap, access to quality reading resources, and reducing the dropout rate are vital priorities for the City of Boston; AND*
- Whereas:** *National non-profits with strong Boston ties -- including the literacy and mentoring organization, Read to a Child and Super Bowl Champion Malcolm Mitchell's Share the Magic Foundation -- are teaming up to raise awareness of the literacy crisis in the US, to introduce book ownership to young readers and to improve literacy rates and reading proficiency through innovative youth mentoring and literacy programming; AND*
- Whereas:** *During the Week of November 11, 2018 Read to a Child will host 'The Magic of Reading Gala' in Boston and Share the Magic Foundation will open registration for READBowl, a national reading challenge providing teachers with free resources to motivate students to read more in the classroom; NOW*
- Therefore:** *I, Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, do hereby proclaim the week of November 11 – 17, 2018 to be:*

LITERACY WEEK *in the City of Boston*

I encourage all my fellow Bostonians to join me in promoting reading among children to improve literacy skills by reading to a child, volunteering, mentoring or enabling book ownership among the most at-risk and under-served youth.

Mayor of Boston
November 6, 2018