



## CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

### **SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the education of Virginia's school-aged children is the foundation upon which the economic, social, and intellectual strength of our Commonwealth is built; and

**WHEREAS**, locally elected and appointed school board members play an important role in our representative democracy, as the decisions of local school boards directly influence instruction in Virginia's public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the leadership of our school boards affects the development and future of our children and ensures that students are prepared to compete in local, state, national, and global economies; and

**WHEREAS**, local school boards devote themselves to providing a high-quality education for all students in the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, school board members work with parents, businesses, educational professionals, and other community members to create and sustain an educational vision for our students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia is proud of our educational system and appreciates the efforts of local school board members to make the Virginia public school system an excellent place in which to educate our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, School Board Appreciation Month recognizes school board members for their leadership and support of a public school system from which the entire Commonwealth benefits;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize February 2018 as **SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



*Ralph S. Northam*  
Governor

*Kelley Thomas*  
Secretary of the Commonwealth