



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA
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Grand Master
Jeffery M. Wilkins

GRAND MASTER'S PROCLAMATION
SEPTEMBER 2022 IS **PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTH**
Crafting Leadership

Whereas California public schools are continuing to face unprecedented challenges related to pandemic recovery, chronic underfunding, and a loss of students, teachers, and staff; and

Whereas California Masons have for more than a century supported public education through the observance of Public Schools Month and its related programs and initiatives; and

Whereas supporting public schools is a bedrock principle of California Masonry; and

Whereas a fair, just, and equitable civil society is predicated on a strong system of public education;

As grand master, I therefore proclaim September 2022 to be Public Schools Month in California.

As California Masonry celebrates the 102nd anniversary of Public Schools Month, support for our schools, teachers, and students has never been more important. Our schools are facing all-new challenges as a result of the pandemic and the subsequent funding gap, and as a result, more of our students are falling behind. The achievement gap in California's schools is widening at an extraordinary pace. It is up to organizations like the Masons of California to help close gaps in funding, technology, and materials that our schools require to ensure that students have equal access to learning and a safe and healthy environment in which to grow. This year, Public Schools Month is being returned to its historic place on the calendar in the fall, to coincide with the return to school for the fall semester—a move based on feedback from our school partners around the state. I call on California Masons to provide aid to their local schools; tutor or mentor students in their community; organize lodge events to improve school grounds and to ensure that students, teachers, and administrators have the equipment they require; and donate to the California Masonic Foundation so that all kids in California have access to the support and materials they need to succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Grand Master Jeffery Wilkins

Attest:

Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou