



**GRAND LODGE  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF CALIFORNIA**

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**GRAND MASTER  
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**GRAND MASTER'S PROCLAMATION  
SEPTEMBER 2024 IS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTH**  
*Shining the Light of Freemasonry*

**Whereas** California public schools continue to face acute 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 2024 to be Public Schools Month in California.**

As California Masonry celebrates more than 100 years of Public Schools Month, support for our schools, teachers, and students has never been more important. Even with the return to in-person learning, our schools are facing challenges related to funding, staffing, and support. The result is that students are falling behind. In many cases, 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.

For more than a century, California Masons have been vocal and active supporters of our public schools, donating their time, money, and energy to provide the resources and support they need to fulfill their potential. In that spirit, I call on California Masons to take this opportunity to work together as individuals, lodges, and as a statewide fraternity 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,

Attest:

Grand Master G. Sean Metroka

Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou