



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA MASONIC MEMORIAL TEMPLE
1111 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108
(415) 776-7000 | FAX (415) 776-0483



Grand Master
Garrett S. Chan

GRAND MASTER'S PROCLAMATION SEPTEMBER 2026 IS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTH

Whereas California Masons have, since 1920, supported public education through the observance of Public Schools Month and its related programs and initiatives; and

Whereas supporting public education 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; therefore,

As grand master, I proclaim September 2026 to be Public Schools Month in California.

For more than 100 years, California Masons have celebrated Public Schools Month. Spurred by the belief that every member of our community is entitled to a free, robust education through which they become informed citizens, Masons including John Swett, the “father of public education” in California, have played a central role in developing and supporting the school system in California and beyond.

That system is in need of our support today. California schools are facing an acute teacher shortage, particularly in special education, dual-language programs, and other specialized fields; nearly one in five students is considered chronically absent; and schools face uncertainty over federal funding. Organizations like the Masons of California are being relied on more than ever 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.

Thanks to partnerships with groups like Raising a Reader, the Masons of California are making a positive impact in our public schools. But it's also up to individual members and lodges to do what they can to support our public school students, families, teachers, and administrators. We have seen numerous examples of this, whether it's hosting teacher appreciation events at the lodge, handing out college scholarships for deserving students, or volunteering time and energy to make renovations to a schoolyard. In that spirit, I call on California Masons to take this opportunity to work together 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 need; 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 Garrett S. Chan

Attest:

Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou