

# State of Nevada Department of Education


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## GOVERNOR SANDOVAL AND SUPERINTENDENT ERQUIAGA ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO KEEP READING DURING SUMMER BREAK

Carson City, NV - June 03, 2014

### Immediate Release

**Carson City, Nevada** - Governor Brian Sandoval and Superintendent of Public Instruction Dale Erquiaga today announced a free online summer reading program entitled "Find a Book, Nevada" to encourage all students across Nevada to read at least five books this summer.

"Summer is a great time to enjoy outdoor activities but it shouldn't mean an end to learning," said Superintendent Erquiaga. "Literacy skills serve as the foundation for student learning at every grade level. I urge parents to read at least five books with their children this summer to help them develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. Practicing reading skills over the summer will help ensure a smooth transition when students return to school in the fall."

"Find a Book, Nevada" is a free online tool that students of all ability levels can use throughout the summer to keep up their skills and prepare themselves for the next grade level. Parents and students are encouraged to visit the "Find a Book" utility at <http://www.lexile.com/fab/nv/> to quickly and easily search books that match a child's reading level and interests as well as locate a local library carrying each title. "Find a Book" also offers a Spanish option that allows users to search all of the titles with Spanish Lexile measures. More information on Spanish Lexile measures is available at <http://www.lexile.com/about-lexile-el-sistema-para-leer/>.

"This online reading tool will allow for students across the state to discover new and exciting books to read over the summer," said Governor Brian Sandoval. "It is important that we give our kids every opportunity to put their best foot forward. For many students, the summer can be a great time to catch up or better prepare themselves for the new school year. Success in the classroom starts at home, and I encourage all parents and students to take the time to explore this free online program."

Studies show children who read through the summer months retain more of their academic skills and are better prepared to learn at the start of the school year. Children who do not read over the summer typically fall 2 ½ to 3 months behind their peers in literacy skills. Children who do not have access to books or adults who can read to them are especially susceptible to summer loss. As a result, by the end of fifth grade, many of these students are approximately 2 ½ years behind their peers in terms of reading ability. Research has shown that even reading four or five books over the summer can help prevent the summer setback.

"Research shows that one reason children do not read enough over the summer is because they are unable to find books at their reading level that really interest them," said Erquiaga. "That's why we are offering the 'Find a Book' tool to help students find books that are well-matched to their reading skill level and topic interests. I hope to hear about the five books families have chosen as I see Nevadans over the summer months."

For more information and fact sheets about the "Find a Book, Nevada" summer reading program, please visit the Nevada Department of Education's summer learning website: [http://www.doe.nv.gov/NDE\\_Offices/APAC/Resources/Summer\\_Learning/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/NDE_Offices/APAC/Resources/Summer_Learning/).

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### Attachments



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