



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the transitional early adolescent years, from ages 10 to 14, represent the distinct developmental stage between childhood and full adolescence, when youth begin to experience more extensive physical, mental, social, moral, and emotional changes than at any other time in life – with the possible exception of infancy; and

Whereas, the New York State Education Department recognizes early adolescence as a period in the lives of our youth that requires developmentally responsive programs and practices; and

Whereas, the New York State Middle School Association is committed to creating, promoting and supporting effective middle-level programs that are academically rigorous and developmentally appropriate; and

Whereas, the social and moral values and the personal attitudes young adolescents develop during these formative years largely determine their lifelong behavior; and

Whereas, the experiences of young adolescents during this period directly impact their future plans for graduation and lifelong learning, and the knowledge and cognitive skills young adolescents develop during these formative years largely affect their performance in high school and success throughout their adult life and in their chosen careers; and

Whereas, parents continue to serve as the primary role models and sources of guidance, influence and direction in the lives of youth, even as young adolescents give increased attention to their friends and peers in school; and

Whereas, our communities also serve as “classrooms” where young adolescents can derive valuable knowledge and learn important lessons by participating in civic life, joining community organizations, and interacting with responsible caring adults who reflect positive lifestyles and examples of good citizenship; and

Whereas, an extensive amount of information and research about this important age group currently exists and such valuable sources of insight into the development of young adolescents should be made available to parents, educators, teen organizations and the greater public so as to promote greater understanding and awareness of the unique concerns, vulnerabilities and sensitivities that affect this young sector of the population, as we all care about our youth and strive to ensure their safety, well-being and growth into sound adults and productive members of society;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as

THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG ADOLESCENT

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this tenth day
of August in the year two thousand nine.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Lawrence Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor