



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

January 4, 2017

Dear Superintendent:

In honor of our brave first responders, I have proclaimed January 9-13, 2017, Florida First Responder Appreciation Week. I ask you and your district's educators and students to show your gratitude for the brave men and women who serve our state's residents as first responders.

When Pulse Nightclub in Orlando was attacked during the early morning hours of Sunday, June 12, 2016, Florida's brave first responders put their lives on the line to rescue the injured and prevent an even more horrific tragedy. During hurricanes Hermine and Matthew, our brave men and women in uniform courageously rescued many Floridians, assisted with evacuations, and responded to the needs of communities. From law enforcement officers to fire fighters, paramedics, and emergency medical responders, we are fortunate to always have someone we can call upon to protect and help us and our families in an emergency. As a father and grandfather, I take comfort in this fact and I know that many of our state's residents share that sentiment.

First responders put themselves at risk every day and sacrifice their own lives to protect ours. They show remarkable resilience, often confronting dangerous situations, and their sense of civic duty and public service sets a great example for our students. It is easy to understand why so many of us admire first responders from a young age.

As adults, we have a responsibility to ensure Florida's next generation has an understanding of the sacrifice and expertise necessary to succeed as a first responder. I hope that you will join me and Commissioner Stewart in helping all of Florida's students thank our state's first responders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott  
Governor