



# City of Auburn **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, American reading levels have been far below grade-level for decades. In 2022, only one-third of children were reading at proficient levels. The rapid shift to distance learning during the pandemic only heightened many of these disparities and put many students at risk of developing long-term disadvantages.; and

**WHEREAS**, reading is an issue of social justice that tops the list of 10 fundamental human rights. The right to read means giving each student the capability to access information that can allow them to reach their fullest potential; and

**WHEREAS**, children have the right to access books in print and digital formats. Connectivity is key to ensuring equity in access to books. Children have the right to supportive reading environments with knowledgeable literacy partners whether they are teachers, librarians, or literacy coaches; and

**WHEREAS**, without equal access to computer hardware, software applications, and the internet, some children will be at a disadvantage—when a child doesn't learn to read, their chances of incarceration, homelessness, and high school dropout increase; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Parent/Guardian University events the Auburn School District has the power to advance understanding and bring unprecedented awareness to the Auburn community. The next Parent/Guardian University event, a screening of the documentary *“The Right to Read”* shares the stories of an NAACP activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success. This documentary focuses on one of the greatest civil rights issues of our time: the ability to read; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal is to educate parents/guardians about previous injustices when it comes to reading and inform parents/guardians about the Science of Reading. AECSD has focused on the Science of Reading for years and will continue to do so. After watching the documentary, members from both the Reading League of New York and the district will be able to respond to the specific implementations and programming that are being used to ensure our students become proficient readers and writers.

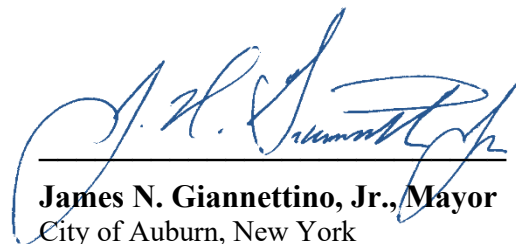
**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, James N. Giannettino, Jr., Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council and the Citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim March 13, 2024 to be

## **RIGHT TO READ DAY**

and we encourage our citizens and visitors to attend this event at the Auburn Public Theater on the 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm to learn more information about this literacy issue, and see how they can better serve families in Auburn.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Seventh day of March 2024.



  
James N. Giannettino, Jr., Mayor  
City of Auburn, New York