



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## MAKING READING PART OF THE SUMMER ROUTINE

PATTY RITCHIE May 27, 2016



As summer approaches, the thoughts of many students turn to time away from the classroom. However, as vacation nears, it's so important that families continue to make learning part of the daily routine, as studies have shown that students need to read at least five books during their break to prevent "summer learning loss," which is the loss of skills and knowledge that sometimes occurs during the summer months.

To help encourage families to make reading a part of their summer vacations, I'm once again participating in the New York State Senate's Summer Reading Program. Made possible

through a partnership with the New York State Library, this special initiative helps children have fun, prevents learning loss and allows students to build on the skills they've already learned throughout the school year.

This year's theme— "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" –will encourage students to explore New York's history, diversity and culture through suggested books that will help teach students about the Empire State. To participate in the Summer Reading Program, visit my website at [www.ritchie.nysenate.gov](http://www.ritchie.nysenate.gov). Starting on June 1st, students will be able to register there for the program and keep track to their reading progress through an online journal. Students who submit a completed journal will receive a special Summer Reading Certificate.

While you're looking for books to read for this year's Summer Reading Program, I would like to encourage students and their families to "check out" their local library. Many libraries throughout our region host special summer reading events and of course, offer the perfect place to find your next favorite book.

As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Libraries—and a lover of reading—I consider it a privilege to advocate for our local libraries. In fact, just recently, I was proud to fight for a \$9 million funding boost for libraries in the new state budget, which will help to ensure libraries throughout our state have the support they need to enhance learning opportunities for all who utilize them.

Studies show that summer reading programs are key to raising student learning levels and helping to prevent learning loss. As summer vacation approaches, I encourage families to visit my website—[www.ritchie.nysenate.gov](http://www.ritchie.nysenate.gov)—to register for this year's Summer Reading Program. Happy reading!

