



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

As our next generation of leaders, young Texans are our most precious resource and brightest rays of hope for the future. It should be our top priority as parents, teachers, community leaders and concerned citizens to guarantee their safety and well-being, especially while they are attending school.

A rigorous, well-rounded education places students firmly on the path to a lifetime of excellence, and our schools play a critical role in promoting academic achievement and personal enrichment. But reaching their potential and achieving success requires a safe, stable environment so that character can be shaped and young minds developed.

Schools today face many challenges. Crime, substance abuse, violence, absenteeism, vandalism, bullying, poor discipline and other misdeeds detract from the educational setting and distract young students in the learning process. All children deserve to learn in an environment where they feel safe and free from harm.

A week in October has been designated to increase awareness of the importance of safe schools. It is critical for schools and communities to work together to assure that our children are secure from harm and able to thrive in their academic environment.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to participate in efforts that make a positive difference for our children. Remember always that we have the responsibility to give them every opportunity to achieve and succeed.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 20–26, 2013, to be

**Safe Schools Week**



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013.

  
Governor of Texas