

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, on November 29, 1975, the United States made a historic commitment to educational equity with the enactment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), then known as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which ensured that children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education; and

**WHEREAS**, IDEA has provided millions of students nationwide, and more than 140,000 students across Washington state, with individualized education programs (IEPs), specialized instruction, related services, and meaningful inclusion in our public schools each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington continues to advance the spirit and requirements of IDEA through the work of families, educators, related-service providers, school districts, Tribes, state agencies, and disability rights advocates who strive every day to support the growth, dignity and potential of each student; and

**WHEREAS**, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IDEA provides an important opportunity to recognize the profound impact of this landmark civil rights law, honor the individuals and communities who uphold its promise and reaffirm Washington state's commitment to inclusive, accessible and high-quality education for all learners; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington state remains dedicated to strengthening equitable educational practices, expanding access to services and ensuring that every student, regardless of disability, has the opportunity to learn, participate and thrive in our schools and communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 29, 2025, as

### *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Day*

in Washington, and I encourage all Washingtonians to join in celebrating the contributions of individuals with disabilities and in renewing our shared commitment to inclusive education.



Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson