



# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

**Johnny Key**  
Secretary

August 23, 2022

**Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

To whom it may concern:

**Stacy Smith**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

The stated goal of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is “transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education”. We are happy to support and recommend the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as a resource to champion universal access for communities to receive high quality books for every child in our state.

**State Board of  
Education**

Each month, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library mails a high quality, age-appropriate book to all registered children from birth to age 5. It is addressed to the child, and it is provided at no cost to the family.

**Ouida Newton**  
*Poyen*  
Chair

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a key element in the Reading Initiative for Student Excellence in Arkansas (R.I.S.E Arkansas) that encourages a culture of reading in the state. The R.I.S.E Arkansas program coordinates and mobilizes community partners, parents, teachers, and students to encourage the importance of reading at home, in schools, and the community. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is a great partner for this program!

**Dr. Sarah Moore**  
*Stuttgart*  
Vice Chair

**Dr. Fitz Hill**  
*Little Rock*

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education is committed to collaborating with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, school districts, communities, and parents to develop best practices and support for R.I.S.E Arkansas.

**Kathy McFetridge**  
*Springdale*

Sincerely,

**Steve Sutton**  
*Marion*

**Adrienne Woods**  
*Rogers*

Johnny Key  
Secretary of Education

**Randy Henderson**  
*Blytheville*