



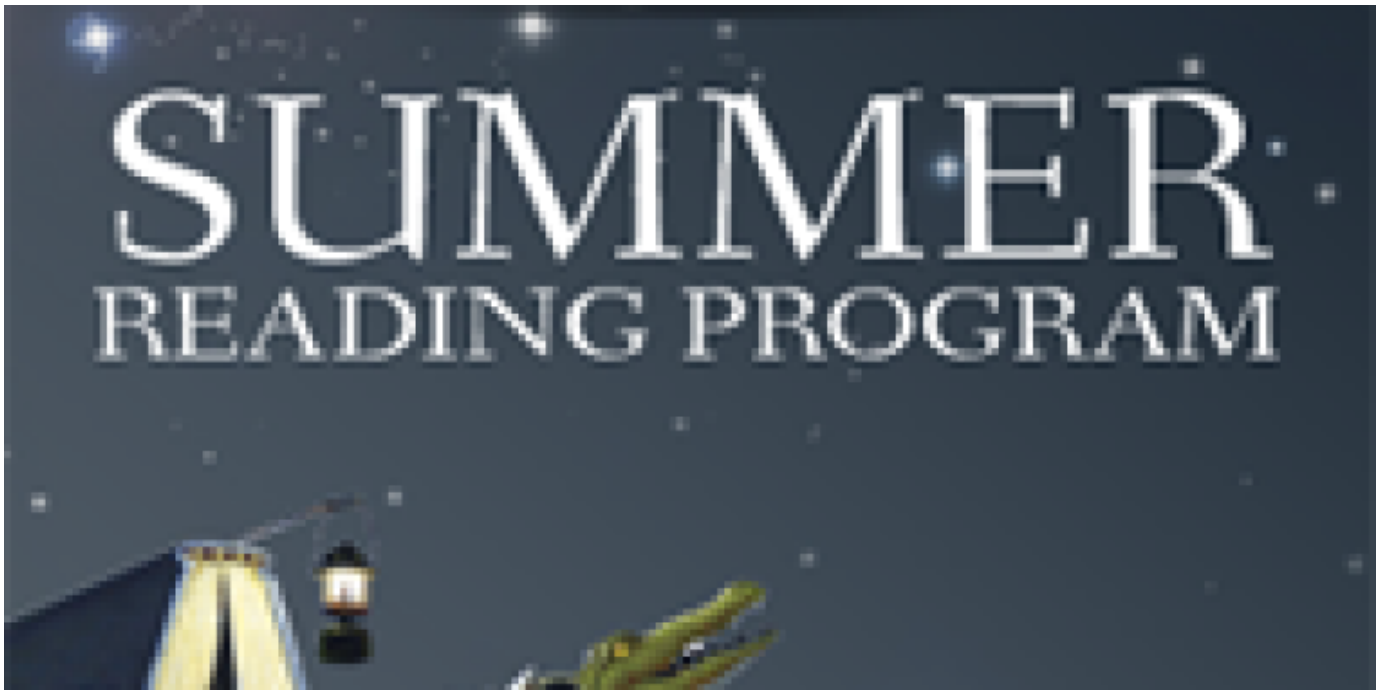
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

## Senator O'Mara teams up with NYS Library and local public libraries to encourage summer reading

THOMAS F. O'MARA June 7, 2012

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**Albany, N.Y., June 7**—State Senator Tom O'Mara (R-C, Big Flats) has announced the beginning of "Dream Big READ!" -- a new, online summer reading program that the Senate will be promoting throughout the summer of 2012 in partnership with the New York State Library and public libraries across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions.

"I'm glad to have this opportunity to join with so many local public libraries and other groups and organizations seeking to encourage summer reading," said O'Mara. "The Senate's online summer reading program offers a convenient opportunity for students and their parents to enjoy the benefits and the rewards of summer reading together. Our region is incredibly fortunate to have such an outstanding network of public libraries providing access to books and other reading activities, materials and opportunities."

Among other features, the online program includes a recording journal, opportunities to share books with other family members and friends, and a series of popular summer reading lists. At the end of the program, participants will receive formal recognition for their reading achievement.

Numerous studies have shown that children who engage in summer reading make greater academic gains than children who do not.

According to New York State Library officials, last year's summer reading program featured the participation of 1.65 million young people statewide. Program coordinators at the New York State Library, Senate and Assembly hope that increased attention on the benefits of summer reading will result in expanded participation this year.

New York State Education Commissioner John B. King, Jr. noted that summer reading programs enable young people to maintain educational advances when not in school.

"Summer reading programs provided at public libraries throughout the state – supported by the State Library in conjunction with our partners in the State Assembly and Senate – give children great tools to stay academically sharp for school in the fall," King said.

To participate in the Senate's online "Dream Big READ!" program, [CLICK HERE](#).