



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

**GREETINGS:**

**It gives me great pleasure to join with the Mechanicsburg Area School District and the National Middle School Association to raise awareness about the special needs and concerns of young adolescents.**

**The critical development that occurs during infancy has been widely recognized and celebrated for many years, yet years of equally important personal growth in early adolescence is often given less attention and consideration than they deserve. It is between 10 and 15 years of age that a young person not only further develops physically, but also as a thinking, emotional, and motivated individual.**

**A young adolescent's mind and body experience dramatic change that can be confusing and is often misunderstood. Although these young individuals are making their first steps toward individuality, they are still influenced by the example set for them by their family and community. For this reason, it is imperative that we, as the adult mentors for our youth, remain committed to being their caregivers, nurturers, and friends. These young people are the leaders and adults of tomorrow, and I encourage all parents, educators, and citizens to give them the attention and respect they need today.**

**On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I am pleased to help raise awareness of the growth and remarkable change that occurs in the lives of our young people and to recognize October 2003 as the Month of the Young Adolescent in Pennsylvania.**



*Edward G. Rendell*

**EDWARD G. RENDELL**  
Governor  
October 2003