

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Farm to school enriches the connection Arkansas communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments; and

WHEREAS: Farm to school programs connect Arkansas's children and youth to food, agriculture, and nutrition-based education, skill-building, and experiences, with the goal of improving academic achievement and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS: Farm to school programs connect Arkansas's growers and local food producers to Arkansas's schools with the goal of serving healthy meals and snacks to improve access to healthy food, improve student nutrition, and increase economic opportunities for local food system providers; and

WHEREAS: Farm to school programs leverage food procurement and educational programming, including opportunities to engage in gardens, to increase nutritional knowledge and skills among students, to improve the nutritional value of school meals, and to provide economic opportunities for local farmers; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's early childhood education facilities, K-12 schools, and alternative learning environments have been identified as a significant market for local and regional food products; spending over \$72 million on food per year, including \$11.8 million spent on local food, either grown in Arkansas, and/or packaged and processed in Arkansas, enabling local agricultural producers to grow their businesses to meet the demands of farm to school programs; and

WHEREAS: Farm to school programs is expanding across the United States and in Arkansas, with more than 40,000 schools participating nationwide, including 731 schools and 346,080 students in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Federal legislation designated October as National Farm to School Month for the purpose of promoting the importance of farm to school activities among students, citizens, teachers and school administrators, state and federal agencies, and all concerned parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 2021, as

ARKANSAS FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary Of State