

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Farm to School Programs connect Arkansas's early care and education programs and K-12 schools to local farms with the goal of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias to improve student nutrition and provide educational opportunities related to agriculture, health, nutrition, and school gardens; and

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

WHEREAS: Arkansas's early care and education programs and K-12 schools have been identified as significant markets for local and regional food products. They spend more than \$150 million on food per year, including \$1.2 million spent on local and regional products, while enabling local agricultural producers to grow their businesses to meet the demands of Farm to School programs; and

WHEREAS: Farm to School Programs are expanding across the United States, with more than 40,000 schools participating nationwide, including 197 schools 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 2017 as

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 27th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest.

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State