

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The School Breakfast Program plays a key role in ensuring that Arkansas students are healthy, active, and ready to learn every day so they can reach their full academic potential. According to reports from the Food Research and Action Center, children who live in families that experience hunger have lower math scores, an increased likelihood of repeating a grade, and receive more special education services. Children who eat breakfast at school closer to class and test-taking time perform better on standardized tests than those who skip breakfast or eat breakfast at home; and

WHEREAS: According to the Arkansas Department of Education, more than 287,000 Arkansas students (more than 60 percent) qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals; and

WHEREAS: Breakfast After the Bell programs, which make breakfast part of the school day, are effective ways of ensuring more students realize the benefits of breakfast. Since Breakfast After the Bell programs were introduced in Arkansas schools in the 2011-2012 school year, the number of meals served to students has increased by 3.8 million; and

WHEREAS: Offering breakfast as part of the school day improves children's diets, builds healthy, lifelong eating habits, and allows students to begin their days focused and ready to learn. The benefits of these models are maximized when eligible schools offer free meals to all students at no cost. Since Breakfast After the Bell programs began being introduced in Arkansas schools, the federal reimbursements schools receive have increased by more than 11.6 million dollars. In the 2016-2017 school year, Arkansas schools were given 52.6 million dollars in federal reimbursements; and

WHEREAS: The Community Eligibility Provision offers high-need Arkansas schools the opportunity to serve breakfast to all students at no cost. This provision also benefits schools by reducing administrative costs, eliminating the collection of paper applications, streamlining meal service operations, and increasing the reimbursements schools receive from federal child nutrition programs;

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 March 2018 as

**ARKANSAS SCHOOL BREAKFAST MONTH**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2018.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

*Mark Martin*

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State