

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry contributing over \$24.3 billion to our state's economy each year;

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

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

WHEREAS: Arkansas' early childhood education facilities, K-12 schools, and alternative learning environments spend over \$304 million on food per year, including \$60.6 million spent on local food;

WHEREAS: Farm to school programs are expanding across the United States and in Arkansas, with more than 59,501 schools participating nationwide, including at least 731 schools and 346,080 students in Arkansas;

WHEREAS: In 2023, Arkansas Farm to School managed and awarded over \$54,000 across 25 schools through the Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest, Arkansas Farm to School Institute Program, and Arkansas Kitchen Equipment Grant Program; and

WHEREAS: Out of 16 states operating a Farm to School Institute Program, Arkansas has the largest participation hosting 15 teams.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, 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 2024 as

"FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN ARKANSAS"

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3rd day of October, in the year of our Lord 2024.



Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State