



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

FARM TO SCHOOL AND FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS: Farm to school and farm to early care programs represent an innovative opportunity to address some of the most critical issues facing Georgia through a comprehensive approach that seeks to improve child nutrition, thus improving academic performance and providing local market opportunities for Georgia farmers; and

WHEREAS: Georgia agencies, schools, early care and education providers, parents, students, farmers, and communities are collaborating to implement farm to school and farm to early care to increase access and education around fresh, local, and nutritious foods, reducing childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's public school districts reported purchasing \$59 million in local food and \$77 million in regional food for Georgia's school children in school year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS: Over half of Georgia's public-school districts participate in farm to school activities of hands-on nutrition education, gardening and agricultural education, and cafeteria celebrations of local food. Farm to school and farm to early care initiatives can support lifelong nutritious eating habits of students, staff, faculty, and families and increase revenue staying in the local community, which fuels direct and indirect job protection and creation; and

WHEREAS: Community partners and local assets are playing a critical role in program success in Georgia communities; and it is abundantly fitting and proper that schools and early learning programs participating in this initiative to preserve the healthy lifestyles of the young children and students of this state, thereby helping them to be physically and mentally fit, be recognized as an asset to the State of Georgia; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as GEORGIA FARM TO SCHOOL AND FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 2nd day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Manton Kipatnick

CHIEF OF STAFF