



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 to reduce childhood obesity; and
- WHEREAS:** Over 99.4% 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; and
- WHEREAS:** Farm to school and farm to early care initiatives can support lifelong nutritious eating habits of students, staff, faculty, and families while increasing revenue 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
- WHEREAS:** It is abundantly fitting and proper that schools and early learning programs participating are following this initiative to preserve the healthy lifestyles of the young children and students of this state. This helps them to be physically and mentally fit and 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 2023 as 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Manton Kipertovich*

CHIEF OF STAFF