



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives provide educational opportunities for students related to agriculture, health, and nutrition, and connect schools, early care and education (ECE) sites, farms, educators, farmers, families, and communities to improve student nutrition, health, and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, farm to school programs purchase local food for school meals and provide a market for local agricultural producers, supporting development opportunities for regional food and agricultural economies; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm to School Census, 62 percent of North Carolina school districts participate in farm to school activities, investing more than \$25 million into local food; approximately 46 percent of school districts plan to increase local food purchases; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2018 National Early Care and Education Survey, 54 percent of surveyed North Carolina ECE providers reported participating in Farm to ECE activities including utilizing edible gardens, serving locally grown food in meals and educating about how food is grown, harvested and prepared; and

WHEREAS, agriculture, family & consumer sciences, nutrition and health education play a critical role in educating North Carolina's children and adolescents about local food from production to consumption, instilling a respect for land and natural resources and food as a source of individual, family and community well-being, and;

WHEREAS, farm to school benefits schools, early care and education sites, farms and communities and federal legislation designated October as National Farm to School Month for the purpose of promoting the importance of farm to school and early care and education activities; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins the Farm to School Coalition of NC, NC Farm to Preschool Network, early care and education sites, K-12 schools and communities across the state in participating in the North Carolina Crunch to celebrate Farm to School Month and offer children, adolescents and adults the opportunity to taste and learn about locally grown produce;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October, 2019, as "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this ninth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.