

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 a No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices and Salter Mitchell 2015 national study, ninety-one percent (91%) of educators agree that breakfast is very or extremely important to academic achievement; and

WHEREAS: Eating breakfast as part of the school day helps students concentrate throughout the day, improves classroom behavior and attendance, reduces nurse visits for headaches and stomachaches and encourages better academic performance. Yet many teachers report that students regularly arrive to their classrooms hungry; and

WHEREAS: More than 280,000 Arkansas school children qualify for free or reduced priced school meals, but only about 60% of those students are eating breakfast at school. Teachers cite stigma, hectic morning schedules, tardiness or socializing with friends as reasons for students missing the traditional school breakfast offered in the cafeteria before the start of the school day; and

WHEREAS: Offering breakfast as part of the school day –whether through Breakfast in the Classroom, Second Chance or Grab and Go delivery models – improves children’s diets, builds healthy, lifelong eating habits and makes it more convenient and easy for students to enjoy a nutritious morning meal with classmates. The efficacy of these models is maximized when eligible schools offer free meals to all students so no one feels stigmatized for participating in the breakfast program; and

WHEREAS: The Community Eligibility Provision offers high-need Arkansas schools the opportunity to serve breakfast to all students at no cost. This provision has the added benefits of reducing administrative costs, eliminating the collection of paper applications, streamlining meal service operations and ensuring more children start their days ready to learn; and

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 2016, as

ARKANSAS SCHOOL BREAKFAST MONTH

across the State, to raise awareness of the school breakfast program and its role as an effective means of helping our children compete, excel and win in life.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 8th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Att
Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State