

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

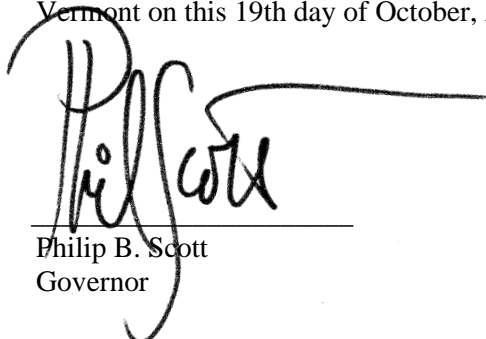
- WHEREAS,** farm to school and early childhood enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early childhood programs; and
- WHEREAS,** farm to school and early childhood supports children’s access to healthy local foods and educational opportunities, including school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont’s local farmers, farm workers and school nutrition professionals are key components of Vermont’s vibrant food system, which became even more clear during the COVID-19 pandemic when food supply chains broke across the country; and
- WHEREAS,** over 100 Vermont farms are providing food to feed our Vermont youth across the state through early childhood programs and school nutrition programs and for every dollar a school spends on local food, \$1.60 is contributed to Vermont’s economy; and
- WHEREAS,** farm to school and early childhood is expanding in Vermont with 88% of schools participating in activities and over 50% holding student field trips to farms; and
- WHEREAS,** racial and ethnic disparities exist in our food system, both in access to healthy food and in income from producing food, inextricably linking food justice to racial justice; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont recognizes the importance of child nutrition programs to support student success and lifelong healthy eating habits, improving academic performance, health outcomes and food security; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont schools and early childhood programs provide new market channels for local producers and connect children with fresh, Vermont-grown foods; and
- WHEREAS,** farm to school and early childhood has a cross-sector impact by providing job training, supporting the agricultural economy, strengthening quality care in childcare programs, engaging students in place-based learning, and improving public health.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 2021 as

FARM TO SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MONTH
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 19th day of October, A.D. 2021.


Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs