

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 Hunger in Our Schools, the most recent report by No Kid Hungry and Salter Mitchell (2015), 93 percent (93%) of educators agree that school breakfast helps students concentrate throughout the day, and eighty seven percent (87%) believe it contributes to better academic performance; and

WHEREAS: According to the Arkansas Department of Education, more than 289,000 Arkansas school students (more than 60 percent) qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals; and

WHEREAS: Breakfast After the Bell programs, which make breakfast part of the school day, are desirable and effective ways of ensuring more students realize the benefits of breakfast. Since Breakfast After the Bell programs were introduced in Arkansas schools in the 2011-2012 school year, the number of meals served to students has increased by 3.6 million; and

WHEREAS: Offering breakfast as part of the school day improves children's diets, builds healthy, lifelong eating habits, and allows students to begin their days focused and ready to learn. The benefits of these models are maximized when eligible schools offer free meals to all students at no cost. Since Breakfast After the Bell programs began being introduced in Arkansas schools, the federal reimbursements schools have received has increased by more than 10 million dollars; 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 additional benefits to schools of reducing administrative costs, eliminating the collection of paper applications, streamlining meal service operations, and increasing the reimbursements schools receive from federal child nutrition programs;

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 2017, as

ARKANSAS SCHOOL BREAKFAST MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 12th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2017.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

At

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State