



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Farm to School Month

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's school nutrition professionals, farmers, and farm workers are recognized as essential and celebrated for their leadership, ensuring the students of Rhode Island are fed, even in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, farm to school programs connect Rhode Island schools and Rhode Island farms to provide access to fresh, high quality, local food in school meals while providing local food and agriculture education that can lead to permanent improvements in the diets of children; and

WHEREAS, ensuring high nutrition standards and education in schools and child care facilities and maximizing participation in federal meal programs are recommendations within *Relish Rhody*, the Rhode Island food strategy; and

WHEREAS, interest, investment, and participation in farm to school programs have consistently expanded across the state of Rhode Island for the last decade; and

WHEREAS, the USDA Farm to School Census ranked Rhode Island as a national leader in district engagement in farm to school programs; and


WHEREAS, Rhode Island school cafeterias are an important market that can bring economic development opportunities to our local agricultural economy and contribute to vibrant communities; and


WHEREAS, food, nutrition and gardening education programs empower students to make informed choices and form lifelong health habits; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Farm to School Network recognizes and respects the vital role agriculture and *RI Grown* food plays in the culture, heritage and economy of Rhode Island; and

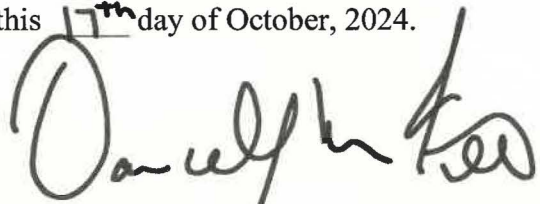
WHEREAS, federal legislation designated October as Farm to School month for the purpose of promoting the importance of farm to school activities among students, teachers, school administrators, citizens, state and federal agencies, and all concerned parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim **October 2024** as ***Farm to School Month*** in the state and encourage all residents to join me in recognizing the value of investing in high quality RI Grown food and food education in our schools.




Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island this 17th day of October, 2024.



Daniel J. McKee
Governor