

STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Schoolyard gardens provide an interactive opportunity for educators to teach students about planning, planting, nurturing, and harvesting which broaden students' knowledge of their environment and helps bring awareness to climate change; and

WHEREAS: Schoolyard gardens offer students a sense of purpose and responsibility, provide a launching pad for learning more about agriculture and natural systems, and increase students' knowledge of and interest in eating fresh fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS: More than 150 Minnesota schoolyard gardens have been developed in recent years to provide hands-on outdoor learning experiences, in alignment with Minnesota PreK-12 academic standards and celebration of more than 40 garden projects related to Schoolyard Garden Planting Week in 2016; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is fortunate to have numerous educators who lend their skills and time to educate students in the schoolyard garden; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Schoolyard Gardens Coalition was formed to sustain and grow the school garden movement, effectively bringing together garden stakeholders from PreK-12 and higher education, communities, state agencies, non-profit organizations, and master gardeners; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Green Schools Coalition, an initiative of U.S. Green Building Council Minnesota, is an active network of the state's strongest advocates leading the charge for creating healthy learning environments for children, while inspiring environmental stewardship in all ages; and

WHEREAS: Collaborations continue to grow among state agencies, University of Minnesota Extension programs, non-profits, foundations, businesses, and school and parent organizations to help start, fund, sustain, maintain, and support school gardens throughout Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of May 22-26, 2017, as:

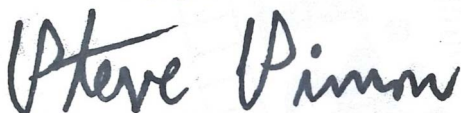
SCHOOLYARD GARDENS PLANTING WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 1st day of March..


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE