



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Schoolyard gardens provide a real-life opportunity for educators to teach students about planning, planting, nurturing, and harvesting; and

WHEREAS: Schoolyard gardens broaden student knowledge of their environment in the time of climate change; and

WHEREAS: Schoolyard gardens offer students a sense of place and responsibility, and provide launch pads for learning more about agriculture and natural systems; and

WHEREAS: Schoolyard gardens 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 allow for hands-on outdoor learning experiences, aligned with Minnesota Pre K-12 Academic standards; and

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

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Schoolyard Gardens Coalition was formed to sustain and grow the school garden movement, effectively bringing together garden stakeholders from Pre K-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 across state agencies, University of Minnesota programs including the Extension Master Gardeners, non-profits, foundations, businesses, schools, and parent organizations to help start and sustain school gardens throughout Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of May 21-25, 2018, as:

SCHOOLYARD GARDENS WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



Steve Simon

SECRETARY OF STATE

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 11th day of May.

Mark Dayton

GOVERNOR