

# Environmental Education Day Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, April 22, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Earth Day in 1970 included teach-ins across the country focused on Environmental Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Environmental Education builds emotional and social skills including self-esteem, character development, team work and leadership skills and climate literacy by encouraging students to research and think critically about complex environmental issues; and

**WHEREAS**, Environmental Education improves overall academic performance by boosting test scores and by embracing many other disciplines such as science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, engineering, fine arts and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, outdoor learning may contribute to greater long-term retention of academic material through hands-on, experiential learning; and

**WHEREAS**, green schoolyards promote physical health by providing many active and cooperative play options for children of different abilities, ages and genders; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy school meals support brain power with vitamins and nutrients needed for focus and energy, promote healthy eating habits even outside of the classroom and decrease childhood obesity rates; and

**WHEREAS**, Environmental Education prepares students for careers in green and STEM industries, which are high in-demand, are expected to grow in the future and contribute to economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, Environmental Education promotes civic engagement and environmental awareness, fostering an ability to participate in lifelong environmental decision making and stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, Environmental Education continues to gain support from individuals, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, governments and commercial enterprises across the world.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, [GOVERNOR'S NAME], Governor of the State of [State], do hereby proclaim April 22, 2020 as ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DAY in [State] and encourage educators and schools to conduct environmental activities so students will understand the importance of these practices.**