BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

HIGH PERFORMANCE HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY

WHEREAS: A healthy and safe environment is important for school children and staff members. The protection of the indoor and outdoor environment where school children live, learn, and play is a critical component of a child's education; and

WHEREAS: Children, on average, spend approximately 30-50 hours per week in their respective schools. They are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they proportionally breathe more air, drink more fluids, and eat more food than adults. Additionally, their developing systems and behaviors contribute to their increased vulnerability; and

WHEREAS: New or renovated healthy and high performance schools designed to improve indoor air and environmental quality can also reduce energy and maintenance costs, thus providing a healthier and safer learning environment for all children through cleaner air, improved lighting, and reduced exposures to toxic substances. This leads to improved attendance, academic achievement, and well-being; and

WHEREAS: Our schools are building blocks of our communities, children, and future. Federal, state, local, and private sector entities should work together to ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently to address environmental health and safety conditions in our schools, highlighting the need for improved attention and protection of children's environmental health; and

WHEREAS: Organizations like the Georgia Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council have programs that recognize schools for their contributions to a healthy environment; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 3, 2016, as HIGH PERFORMANCE HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 13th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF