



MARTIN O'MALLEY
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A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the School Food Forum, “Creating a Vision of Fresh, Real Food in Montgomery County Public Schools” hosted by Real Food for Kids – Montgomery and Montgomery Victory Gardens.

These dedicated hosts have done an outstanding job in helping the children of Montgomery County make healthier food choices. I commend Montgomery Victory Gardens for its support of local farmers and educating young people and adults on how to grow nutritious vegetables, as well as its lead role in changing the policy in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to allow and promote vegetable gardens in the schools.

Real Food for Kids – Montgomery has also done excellent work in reducing the hours in which children have access to candy and soda vending machines, starting a trial of healthier vending and a la carte items in MCPS, and bringing about more transparency with parents regarding the a la carte items sold in the schools.

It is vital that we help our children make the connection between the agriculture industry and what we eat daily. Buying locally is vital to ensuring a smart, green and growing future for Maryland families. It preserves farmland, protects the environment, bolsters local economies, and provides wholesome, nutritious, great-tasting fresh food.

On behalf of the State of Maryland, please accept my wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley".

Governor