



Support and Advance FARM TO SCHOOL in Minnesota with HF 811 & SF 1346!

Farm to School connects Minnesota farmers and kids by including local food in meals and teaching children about agriculture through hands-on activities.



Minnesota Farm to School is good for

FARMERS

Direct access to institutions like schools gives farmers a stable and diversified income.

Schools and early care settings increase demand for more diverse crops, promoting soil health through crop rotation.

Access to local markets is critical for farmers. This bill provides technical assistance to help farmers successfully navigate selling to schools and early care settings.

KIDS

Farm to school and early care programs provide access to fresh, nutritious, local foods children need to learn and grow.

Hands-on classroom activities educate kids about where food comes from and build an understanding of agriculture, farming and nutrition.

Young children are developing their lifelong taste preferences and eating habits. Children who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to eat a wide variety of foods and are more willing to try new foods. They also eat an additional serving of fruits and vegetables per day!

THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Local food supply chains create opportunities for farmers and businesses, like processors and distributors. But, the current lack of infrastructure means supply often cannot meet the high demand for local food.

Finding stable, local buyers creates a price floor for farmers, processors and distributors, driving the revitalization of rural communities.

FARM TO SCHOOL'S IMPACT

\$1.00 ⇒ \$2.16

Investing \$1 in Farm to School generates an additional \$2.16 of local economic activity.¹



Farmers Ben Doherty and Erin Johnson of Open Hands Farm in Northfield report that selling to schools has allowed them to triple their own business, hire more employees and support other local businesses in their community. Instead of going out the door to California, money spent on carrots from our neighbor farmers like Ben and Erin recirculates in Minnesota communities.

1. "The Benefits of Farm to School." National Farm to School Network. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf> (accessed February 20, 2019).

FARM TO SCHOOL in Minnesota

GOOD FOR FARMERS. GOOD FOR KIDS.
GOOD FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMY.



GOALS OF THE BILL

Establish a grant program to reimburse Minnesota schools and early care centers for purchasing Minnesota-grown whole or minimally processed food.

Provide technical assistance to interested or participating farmers and schools.



VOTE FOR HF 0811 / SF 1346!

A step forward for food justice

Rural or urban, black, brown, or white—everyone deserves healthy, sustainably-grown local food. Farm to School is a first step toward a more just food system that prioritizes people's needs. If we invest, we can build thriving local foods economies that provide opportunity for family farmers, revitalize our rural communities, and steward the land for generations to come.

Learn more at FarmToSchoolMN.org
or by contacting:

Erin at erin@iatp.org or

Ben at banderson@landstewardshipproject.org

The latest USDA Ag Census indicates that about

3,000

Minnesota specialty crop producers could benefit from this bill—and that doesn't count the benefits for meat, dairy and grain producers.



Most other states have invested in a statewide Farm to School program. Let's count Minnesota among them!

COALITION CO-CHAIRS

