

# 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.







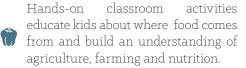
Minnesota Farm to School is good for

## **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





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.



**\$1.00 ⇒ \$2.16** 

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

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**



