



Windham Central Supervisory Union provides leadership and resources to ensure a strong educational system for all students.

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## Jacob Gallogly

Food Service Manager

2/8/2024

To whom it may concern,

My request is that you please support the Farm to School & Early Childhood program with level funding base appropriation of \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2025. I also request that you support the Local Food Incentive Grant program for schools at \$500,000 level funding base appropriation.

Farm to school programs are so much more than simply teaching kids about where their food comes from, they create an avenue to expand the understanding of the building blocks of life and health. Though the ideas may start small with sprouting a seed, or composting food scraps, those concepts begin to mature inside young minds giving the youth of Vermont a holistic appreciation that students elsewhere simply do not have the opportunity to develop.

Kids notice change, and even small changes in the classroom and cafeteria make a lasting impact. At Leland & Gray we made the small change to remove carton milk from our cafeteria and replace it with bulk dispensers filled with organic, local milk processed only 30 minutes down the road at Miller Farm in Vernon, Vermont. Making this change alongside explaining why Miller Farm's milk is better for both our bodies and the environment opened the eyes of hundreds of students to where, how and why milk is processed. Students are interested and so excited about *milk* that there are now classes that visit the farm to meet Pete Miller and his cows. Apparently the cows are great at 'selfies' as well.

This type of connection to land, animals, and food would not be possible without the measures that have been taken to incorporate Farm to School concepts into the everyday lives of Vermont's students. I thank you for all of your support, and again ask that you please support the Farm to School & Early Childhood program as well as the Local Food Incentive Grant Program with level funding base appropriation of \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2025.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Gallogly

### Windham Central Supervisory Union

will

- ...place students at the center of our decision-making.
- ...build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently, and with integrity.
- ...operate as a community of learners, committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all.
- ...collaborate, share and seek creative solutions.