Becca Perrin
Farm to School Local Procurement Specialist
NOFA-VT

Hello, my name is Becca Perrin, I live in Craftsbury, Vermont and I am the Farm to School Local Procurement Specialist at NOFA-VT. My role is to create connections between Vermont schools who are working to increase their local purchasing and Vermont producers who are reaching toward school markets.

I am asking today for your continued support for the Farm to School & Early Childhood program and the Local Food Incentive, with a level-funded base appropriation of $500,000 each for fiscal year 2027 in the Agency of Education's budget. This funding is included in the Governor's recommended budget. These programs are not just investments in Vermont's 83,000 students—they are critical to farm viability, providing stable markets, increasing farm income, and strengthening our agricultural economy.

Vermont schools have increased their purchase of local foods almost 10% in the past 10 years—now, we have an average of 14% of purchases coming from local farms and producers. That's $3 million a year staying in Vermont. To continue this crucial momentum, we must continue to incentivize local purchases from schools as well as creating lasting support through the Farm to School and Early Childhood program.

Again, I request that you please level fund Farm to School grants in the Agency of Agriculture's budget and the Local Food Incentive in the Agency of Education's budget at $500,000 each for fiscal year 2027. This funding is included in the Governor's recommended budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.