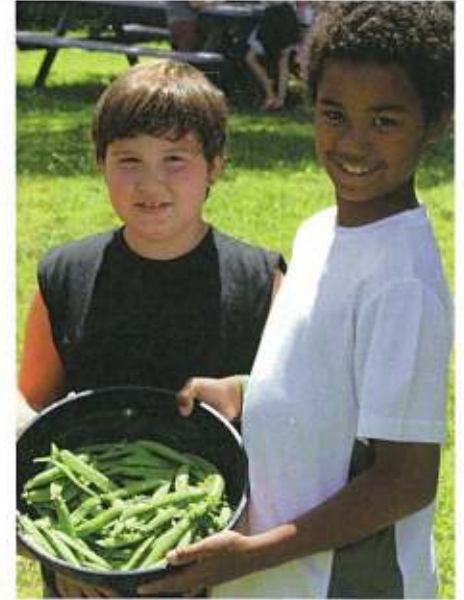


VERMONT

FARM^{TO}SCHOOL

OUR PROGRESS & IMPACT ▶

- Since 2007, **Vermont's Farm to School Grant Program** has supported **more than 120 schools** and reached more than **30,000 students**.
- Vermont school districts spent **\$1.38 million on local products** in the 2011–12 school year.
- 95% of schools with Farm to School programs report serving local food: Vermont vegetables, fruit, eggs, beef, poultry, milk, cheese, yogurt, cider, maple syrup, and more.
- Vermont schools with Farm to School programs have reported twice the national average in vegetable consumption. Students who know a farmer or grow their own food eat more fruits and vegetables.



SOURCES: UVM Center for Rural Studies; USDA Farm to School Census; Vermont FEED

OUR OPPORTUNITY ▶

Farm to School is good for the Vermont economy

- The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets estimates that state institutions (schools, hospitals, higher ed) are a potential **\$11 million market** for local foods.
- Farm to School works directly with Vermont producers and institutional buyers to improve the supply chain and develop new market opportunities for farmers.
- The program leverages many times more dollars in federal and private grants, as well as school and business investments.
- Vermont spends \$320 million annually on chronic disease. An investment in Farm to School can save on healthcare costs in the future.

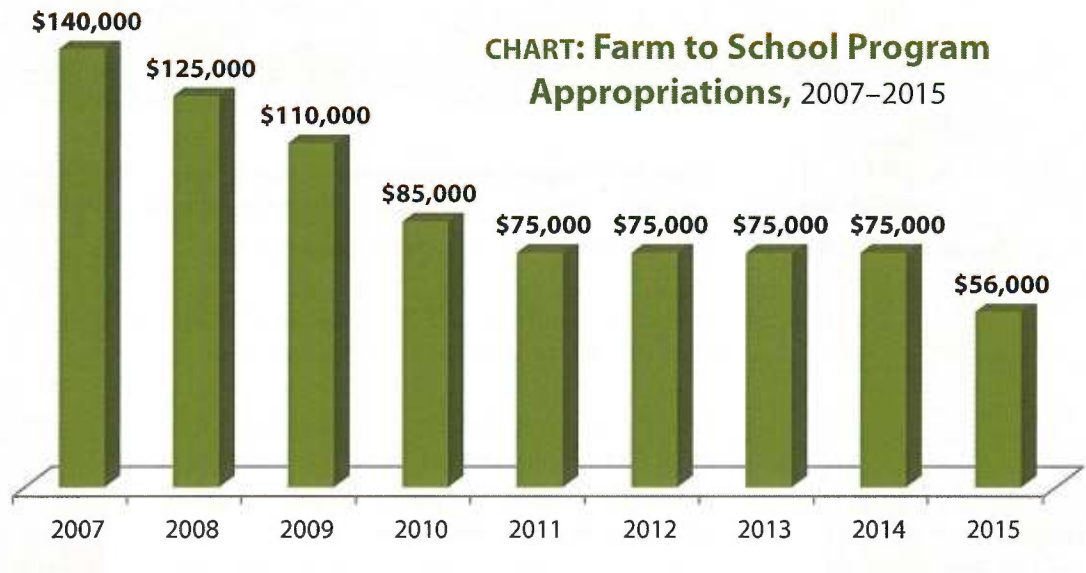
Farm to School improves the health of our children and their engagement in learning.

- 26% of Vermont teens are overweight or obese. Farm to School has huge potential to improve life-long eating habits and the nearly **11.7 million meals** served annually by Vermont schools (about 66,734 a school day).
- One in five Vermont children face hunger, a significant barrier to growing up healthy and succeeding in school. Vermont children get much of their daily nutrition from school meals. Let's ensure *all* Vermont kids have equal access to healthy local food.



THE CHALLENGE ▶

State funding for Farm to School has been cut 60% while demand continues to rise!



YOU CAN HELP! ▶

Investing in Farm to School has a high return: more dollars back to Vermont's economy and more Vermont students accessing healthy, local food.

"We know that with the right interventions we can give every child a chance to get the nourishment, the support they need to thrive and grow and become strong students and strong learners. When our children eat healthy foods we know that they grow stronger brains and they're better able to learn. We know that when children are well fed, they have fewer discipline incidents and are able to behave and participate and engage in learning. And we know that the best food we can give them is fresh food, unprocessed, full of nutrients straight from our farms and to their plates."

— VT SECRETARY OF EDUCATION REBECCA HOLCOMB

"Farm to school programming helps build a culture of 'ag literacy' in our schools and communities. These programs are an essential part of building the connection between agriculture and the next generation of Vermonters, while also teaching our students to make healthy choices and ensuring food access for all."

— VT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CHUCK ROSS

For more information: www.vtfeed.org