

Help End Childhood Hunger and Support Local Agriculture

Healthy children, viable farms and vibrant communities.

A Win-Win-Win for Vermont.



Ensure every student can eat at school every day with universal school meals: S.223 & H.812

This bill requires all public schools in Vermont to participate in a federal option to make available school breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge to their families. The cost of school meals that is not reimbursed through federal funds or other funding sources would be borne by school districts, and therefore ultimately borne by the Education Fund.

Schools are required to maximize federal reimbursements, and the Agency of Education will work with partners and schools to develop and implement a Household Income Form that collects important data about the student population needed for eligibility for other federal funds that support education. The bill establishes a five-year transition period so that schools have the time they need to implement universal school meals.



Support local food purchasing in schools: S.273

Creates a financial incentive for school nutrition programs that spend a certain percentage of their food budget on locally produced food. This bill also establishes a goal that by the year 2022 at least 20 percent of all foods purchased for school meals shall be locally produced foods.



Fully fund the Farm to School and Early Childhood Grants Program

Farm to School and Early Childhood connects the next generation of localvores with farms and local food through a statewide grant program available to schools and early childhood providers, regional Farm to School support organizations, and the statewide Farm to School Network. Together, the grants and partner organizations work together to bring local food into the cafeteria and the classroom, to connect students and schools with local farms, and to develop systems to help more schools purchase more local food. The Farm to School and Early Childhood program seeks \$500,000 annually to fully fund this work. Please work toward that goal, and ensure that funding for Farm to School does not decrease from the \$241,000 base funding from FY20.

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