

My name is Sarah Reed. I am a resident of Landgrove, and have two daughters who attend Flood Brook School in Londonderry. I am also an educator. I taught in the classroom for 8-years and most recently served as a school administrator in the BRSU. During my time as assistant principal at Flood Brook I supervised the Farm to School program. During this time, our committee worked with teachers to implement components of our Farm to School program in their classrooms. I am here this evening to encourage continued funding of Farm to School programming throughout the state.

As an educator, at any level, or in any content area, the goal is always the same—to reach a high level of student engagement. It's very simple; if students are engaged in a meaningful way, high and complex levels of learning will occur. This is the sweet spot where all of the magic in a classroom happens.

From both my own observations and through teacher feedback, it was obvious that students at Flood Brook were naturally engaged with the curriculum aligned to the Farm to School program. The content is naturally authentic and relevant for kids. Kids love learning about food and food systems. Kids love to grow the food that they will eat. They love to cook food. When they are very young, they love to play with food! They love to eat food and they love to serve food they have prepared for others. Food taps into the basic human experience that we all share. It is as authentic and relevant as it gets. The only other topic that is as engaging for young children is any topic related to the human body! Why? For the same reasons; authenticity and relevance. In addition, because of the hard work on the part of the Farm to School pioneers across the state, the programming aligns beautifully with the curriculum that our teachers already know and follow. This includes the Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards. Easy connections can be made across all the content areas.

Ultimately we know that with access to Farm to School programs, students learn healthy habits that they can carry through the rest of their lives. Please help us to reach our annual funding goal.”