



**VERMONT  
FARM TO SCHOOL &  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
NETWORK**

# Growing Healthy Vermont Schools, Farms & Communities



**Please fully fund the Farm to School & Early Childhood Grants Program at \$500,000 to support our children getting critical nutrition and our farmers getting direct support through school purchasing.**

## THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT



**Food insecurity is 27% higher now than before the pandemic in 2019.** For many students, around half their daily calories come from school meals. Farm to school programs are an important way to improve nutrition for all children.

**Access to fresh local food should not depend on your zipcode.** Farm to school supports Vermont families, farmers, and children as we recover from the pandemic.

**Every dollar schools spend on local food contributes \$1.60 to Vermont's economy, and schools spend \$15.5M on food every year.** Let's send more of those dollars to Vermont farmers!



**Over 100 Vermont farms provide food to feed our youth** across the state through early childhood programs and school nutrition programs.

**90% of the brain is developed by age five.** Healthy, nutritious food is vital to healthy brain development in young children.

The Farm to School & Early Childhood Grants Program received 70 applications and **only 24% of the requested funds could be awarded** with the funds available.

"Within weeks [of eating the school-grown produce], it was getting easier for me to walk up the hill, my mental health skyrocketed, I was happy, and I enjoyed what I was doing every day. I know exactly where my food comes from, and it makes me feel good. It makes me feel like I'm involved in it: I've touched it, planted it, and I know where it's going."

– Green Mtn Technical & Career Ctr Student  
Lamoille North School District

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Learn more @ [vermontfarmtoschool.org](http://vermontfarmtoschool.org)  
Questions? Email Betsy Rosenbluth at  
[brosenbluth@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:brosenbluth@shelburnefarms.org)

"When we serve local food in our schools, all students, regardless of their home economic situation, are getting fresh, wholesome, nutritious food in the regular meals."

– Jen Kravitz  
Cornwall School Principal

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"The pandemic has brought food and schools back into focus. Now more than ever it's important we all remain committed to a strong, vibrant food system."

– Anson Tebbets  
Vermont Secretary of Agriculture