



**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
Questions? Email Betsy Rosenbluth at
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"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