Grow Farm to School Markets

HIGHLIGHTS

Farm to school incentive and grant programs have been successfully implemented in California, Maine, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Vermont, signing their local food purchasing incentive into law in June 2021.

Increased availability of fresh, locally-sourced school food benefits student learning, food security, and health.

Almost 80% of schools in RI purchase some local food, but they can do much more. Farm to School programs can create a robust and more stable market opportunity for farmers, helping to reduce RI’s reliance on non-local markets, create new jobs and grow the local economy.

PROJECTED IMPACTS

- Over $500K in spending by RI schools on RI food - puts money directly into the hands of Rhode Island farmers, fishers, and processors
- More than $900K in boosts to Rhode Island’s economy

NOTE: Calculations based on results from New York’s successful Farm to School program, using a conservative goal of 50% of students who participate in school lunch at schools that reach 30% of the lunch food budget spent on food from RI growers and harvesters by SY2028. We utilized a $0.20/meal state reimbursement for school food authorities that spend at least 30% of their lunch food budget on RI food.

We are urging the legislature and administration to commit $560,000 over three years to this priority area.

OUTCOMES

+$500K spent on Rhode Island food businesses
+$900K economic boost for Rhode Island’s economy