



Farm to School Act of 2025

Led in the Senate by: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Susan Collins (R-Maine); Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.)

Background: Since its creation in 2010 through the [Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act](#), the Farm to School Program has invested over [\\$100 million](#) in initiatives that feed children local foods at lunch and help teach students about food, nutrition, and agriculture in their communities. According to the 2023 Farm to School Census, school food authorities (SFAs) estimated that they spent about \$1.8 billion on local food through the Farm to School Program—[16%](#) of their total food spending.

During the 2022-2023 school year in Vermont, [224](#) schools participated in Farm to School programs, feeding over [50,000](#) students across the state. Additionally, nearly [80%](#) of Vermont SFAs provided food, nutrition, or agricultural education, and [59%](#) of SFAs had operating food-producing gardens in the state.

However, the popular program—which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)—is significantly oversubscribed, with less than a quarter of grant applications receiving funding each year. Reducing barriers to applying for Farm to School Program grants is vital to supporting initiatives that deliver fresh, local foods to schools nationwide.

Legislation: The *Farm to School Act of 2025* would get fresh, locally grown foods in schools across the nation by expanding the Farm to School Program for school-aged children through increased investment. Specifically, the bill would increase the program's mandatory funding from \$5 million to \$15 million per year and increase the maximum grant award to \$500,000.

Additionally, the *Farm to School Act* would reduce barriers to applying for Farm to School Grants by granting USDA the authority to modify or waive the current 25% non-federal matching requirement. This legislation would also help grantees improve procurement and distribution of local food and expand the scope of the program to include pre-schools, summer food service, and after-school programs.

Endorsing Organizations: The *Farm to School Act of 2025* is endorsed by the Food Research & Action Center, Hunger Free Vermont, and the National Farm to School Network (NFSN.)