



## Fact Sheet

# NEW JERSEY FARM TO SCHOOL LOCAL FOOD PROGRAM

**Bill A3742/S1637 will:**

### SCHOOL IMPACT

*“This funding allowed us to have additional resources to be able to source food locally and to develop partnerships that we may not have had.”*

Arlethia Brown,  
Senior Director  
Camden School Nutrition

- Help schools purchase 100% New Jersey-grown produce, meats, seafood, and grains to serve in school lunch programs.
- Invest New Jersey tax dollars directly in New Jersey farmers, fishermen, and communities.
- Increase the amount of local, culturally relevant, high-quality food reaching students in New Jersey.
- Develop new economic opportunities for New Jersey farmers, producers, and ranchers.
- Support state food security and food systems!

### THE FARM TO SCHOOL LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE:

1. **Grants** to school food authorities to offset the cost of purchasing local food for school meals.



2. **Technical assistance to support schools** with cooking techniques, equipment, and staffing to fully leverage New Jersey-grown products in meal programs.



3. **Resources for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture** to build connections between growers and schools, evaluate program effectiveness, and offer critical capacity to manage and oversee the program.





## FARM IMPACT

*"It's as fresh as it can really be. It's not traveling across the country or waiting on a shelf for days and days and then getting onto somebody's plate. It's such a rewarding feeling to know that the kids at any level have access to good, fresh, local produce."*

-Michelle Petronglo,  
New Jersey farm owner  
Buster Petronglo & Son  
Farm

## WHY MORE LOCAL FOOD IN SCHOOLS?

**Economic Win** - Research has shown every \$1 spent on local foods for school meals generates \$1.40 for local economies.<sup>1</sup>

- Schools increasing their local procurement increases and diversify farm sales, generating secure and viable market opportunities for New Jersey family farmers.

**Public Health Win** - Purchasing, promoting, and serving local foods in school meals has led to students eating 37% more vegetables and 11% more fruit.<sup>2</sup>

- Food insecurity is prevalent across New Jersey,<sup>3</sup> and Farm to School can increase the diversity and quality of food in school meals increasing access to fresh and nutritious foods for students.

**Community Win** - Connecting farmers back to their communities and students to local agriculture supports local food systems and increases food security.

- Keeping food grown in New Jersey inside the state strengthens our food supply chains, and offers a resilient, climate-smart solution with fewer "food miles" between source and consumer.

1. <https://guidebook.nourishcolorado.org/farm-to-school-in-colorado>

2. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00178969221119290>

3. <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/nj2022>

## ACT NOW:

**Show your support of Bill A3742/S1637 today, and support the future of NJ students and farmers:**

Scan or visit [this link](#) to sign on to show your support!

