

## LOCAL FOOD IN EVERY SCHOOL MEAL

H.3993, “An Act Supporting Farm and School Partnerships in School Meals,” would build on the success of a current federally funded local foods incentive, Northeast Food for Schools, which is set to expire at the end of the 2023-24 school year. We’ve already seen how successful a local food incentive can be at driving investments in local farms and food businesses and expanding access to healthy foods for *all* students. Let’s not let the program end when the federal funds run out! A state incentive will enable the incredible local purchasing gains to continue and support our local economy.

## BILL OVERVIEW

- Introduced by Representatives Domb and Vargas
- Would establish and evaluate a 3-year pilot program in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide public K-12 schools and licensed early child care programs additional reimbursement for meals featuring locally and regionally grown foods
- Schools would be reimbursed \$1 for every \$3 spent on qualifying Massachusetts foods
- Increases access to healthy high quality foods for all Massachusetts kids
- Directs investment to Massachusetts farmers and fishers for a more resilient food system

## TAKE ACTION

Please sign on as a co-sponsor of H.3993, “An Act supporting farm and school partnerships in school meals”



**Wow! We have been adding new schools, each week and it is not stopping yet! The volume has pushed us to add delivery days, employee hours, and hire a part-timer. We have been renting an additional truck on some days each week and soon will be adding storage capacity as well as purchasing another truck... This has been great for our local farmers.”**

**-Shon Rainford, Worcester Regional Food Hub**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Simca Horwitz at [simca@massfarmtoschool.org](mailto:simca@massfarmtoschool.org) or 413-253-3844 to learn more.

## PROVIDING A LOCAL FOODS INCENTIVE MEANS...

### More money for Massachusetts' food and farm economy

Every \$1.00 spent on direct farm purchases in Massachusetts generates another \$1.12 in local economic activity. Massachusetts schools spend over \$75 million on food every year and we want more of those dollars going to Massachusetts farmers and fishers.



### Increased access to high quality foods for Massachusetts school kids

Every kid in Massachusetts should grow up with local food on their lunch tray. By giving schools and early childhood programs the resources they need to buy from Massachusetts farmers and fishers, we are ensuring equitable access to high quality, local food for all Massachusetts school children.



### Expanded markets for Massachusetts farmers & fishers

Over 110 Massachusetts farms sell food to Massachusetts schools and early childhood programs. 25% of those farmers report expanding their businesses to meet school demand. Let's grow the number of producers selling to schools!



### School meal programs THRIVE

Universal school meals and a local food incentive can work together to increase participation in school meals, so more students are nourished and ready to learn. When paired, these programs increase meal participation, which gives school food programs more dollars to buy more local food, sending more money back into the local economy.

