



Massachusetts Farm to School strengthens local farms and fisheries and promotes healthy communities by increasing local food purchasing and education at schools.

## SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL IN MASSACHUSETTS

You can help expand farm to school activity by co-sponsoring H.558 or S.243, "An Act Establishing Farm to School Grants to Promote Healthy Eating and Strengthen the Agricultural Economy and by **sustaining level funding** for farm to school efforts in the annual Department of Agricultural Resources budget (Line Item 5100-0100).

Please visit [www.massfarmtoschool.org](http://www.massfarmtoschool.org) for more information or contact **Lisa Damon**, [lisa@massfarmtoschool.org](mailto:lisa@massfarmtoschool.org).

## WHAT WE DO

### Training & Technical Assistance

Provide support and professional learning opportunities for farmers, food service directors, distributors, and other organizations.

### Outreach & Communications

Coordinate the Harvest of the Month promotional campaign, as well as develop and distribute resources to support local foods procurement and food & agriculture education.

### Research & Advocacy

Co-facilitate the MA Foods for MA Kids Coalition to advance strong state policies to support local food purchasing and education in schools.

### Network Development

Support networking and peer learning of farm to school practitioners locally and regionally to align our efforts and strengthen our collective impact.

## OUR WORK PROMOTES

### Farm Viability & Economic Development

- Help farmers and fishermen access institutional markets for their products. 110 farms report selling directly to institutions. 25% of farmers report increasing their production to meet institutional demand.
- Massachusetts school districts spend an estimated \$10M on local food annually.

### Healthy Food Access & Education

- Farm to school programs increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables and strengthen knowledge of agriculture, food, nutrition, and the environment. Since 2005, the number of MA school districts engaging in farm to school activities increased from 10% to 68%.
- Across Massachusetts, 160 institutions highlight local fruits, vegetables, dairy, and seafood every month throughout the year.