



AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM (SD.841 / HD.1043)

LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

Farm to school programs strengthen student achievement, improve nutrition, and grow the local economy. A Massachusetts Farm to School Program within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will support the infrastructure investments, staff training, and educational initiatives that lead to farm to school program success and sustainability. It will help schools and early education programs consistently offer students healthy, locally grown foods as part of school meals. Providing schools with the resources they need to start up or expand local food sourcing and education activities is a win for our kids, our farmers, and our communities.



BILL HIGHLIGHTS

- Introduced by Senator Comerford and Representatives Duffy and Vargas
- Builds on successful federally-funded pilots (the MA FRESH grant and Northeast for Schools Program)
- Establishes a permanent competitive grant program and permanent local food incentive within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for eligible K-12 schools and licensed child care programs
- Directs investment to Massachusetts farmers and fishers for a more resilient food system
- Builds the capacity of public schools and licensed child care programs to purchase ingredients grown and produced in Massachusetts, prepare scratch-cooked meals, and provide experiential food education
- Increases access to healthy, high quality foods for all Massachusetts kids
- Has cross-sector impact by updating infrastructure, providing job training, supporting local business growth, educating students, and improving public health

TAKE ACTION

Ask your legislators to support SD.841 & HD.1043, “An Act Establishing the Massachusetts Farm to School Program”

<https://bit.ly/ActionAlert-01-25-F2SProgram>

