

Local Farms Healthy Kids



Helping Washington Farmers Feed Washington Kids.



Benefits:

- ✓ **Supporting farmers:** Washington agriculture deserves a spot in the lunch line. This effort helps farmers, food processors, manufacturers and distributors bring great Washington products into schools.
- ✓ **Healthy kids:** Farm fresh food for our schools will help address obesity because eating behaviors practiced during childhood carry over into adulthood.
- ✓ **Preserving farmland:** By creating sustainable markets for our farmers, we help keep working farms working and help preserve farming communities near our cities and towns.
- ✓ **Less waste:** When food is consumed near to where it is grown and processed, there is less need for wasteful packaging, refrigeration, storage and freight. By keeping our food local we use less energy and create less waste.

Legislative Proposal:

Our schools represent an enormous potential market for Washington's farmers, and the best vehicle for improving kids' access to healthy food. This legislation will make Washington a national leader in getting locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to those who need it most by:

Making it possible: This bill will expand children's access to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables by easing purchasing restrictions that currently make it difficult for schools and institutions to buy from local farms.

Forging connections: Establishing a state "Farm To School" program that will connect schools with community farmers, and will provide necessary information and technical assistance to both school districts and farms.

Getting good food into the classroom: Washington will enact a Washington Grown Fruits and Vegetables Program that will fund a fresh food snack program in schools with high numbers of low-income students.

Helping those who need it most: This effort will make it easier for low income families to purchase locally grown food by enabling farmers markets to accept food stamps, increasing funding of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and creating pilot projects for food banks to purchase fresh food directly from Washington farms.



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