Farm to School connects Minnesota farmers and kids by including local food in meals and teaching children about agriculture through hands-on activities.

Farmers Ben Doherty and Erin Johnson of Open Hands Farm in Northfield report that selling to schools has allowed them to triple their own business, hire more employees and support other local businesses in their community. Instead of going out the door to California, money spent on carrots from our neighbor farmers like Ben and Erin recirculates in Minnesota communities.

Establish a grant program to reimburse Minnesota schools and early care centers for purchasing Minnesota-grown whole or minimally processed food.

Provide technical assistance to interested or participating farmers and schools.

GOALS OF THE BILL

Rural or urban, black, brown, or white—everyone deserves healthy, sustainably-grown local food. Farm to School is a first step toward a more just food system that prioritizes people’s needs. If we invest, we can build thriving local foods economies that provide opportunity for family farmers, revitalize our rural communities, and steward the land for generations to come.

Learn more at FarmToSchoolMN.org or by contacting:
Erin at erin@iatp.org or
Ben at banderson@landstewardshipproject.org

The latest USDA Ag Census indicates that about

3,000

Minnesota specialty crop producers could benefit from this bill—and that doesn’t count the benefits for meat, dairy and grain producers.

Most other states have invested in a statewide Farm to School program. Let’s count Minnesota among them!

COALITION CO-CHAIRS