



NH
Department
of
Agriculture

COMMISSIONER SHAWN JASPER

HB 1678

Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Program

Signed by Governor Sununu in 2024, funds a two-year pilot program to incentivize New Hampshire school districts and food service directors to purchase locally grown and produced food for breakfast and lunch services. The NH Farm to School Network estimates the pilot will inject \$241,000 of state funds into NH's farm and food economy, with the potential for additional federal funds, to:

- Foster school-farmer relationships, lessening supply chain disruptions, and increasing food security
- Educate students, teachers, and school staff about local foods and the importance of supporting local agriculture
- Increase profitability for New Hampshire farmers, fishermen, and food producers

The pilot will receive support from NH Farm to School, a program of University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute

2025 NH Farm to School Pilot Program - Eligibility

- ✓ One school district per county will be selected for the grant
- ✓ Awarded school districts shall participate both years of the pilot program
- ✓ Local school district must participate in National School Lunch Program
- ✓ Foods purchased under this program shall originate in New Hampshire
- ✓ Eligible foods include dairy, fish, pork, beef, poultry, eggs, fruits, vegetables, cider, and maple syrup
- ✓ Food may be served in the school breakfast, school lunch, or fresh fruit and vegetable programs
- ✓ Program is reimbursement based

NH Farm to School Program – Selection Committee

A selection committee will be assembled by the Department of Agriculture to review proposals and select participating school districts. The selection committee will include 6 individuals with knowledge of New Hampshire agriculture, experience with school food service, school nutrition, or farm-to-school processes, and must include:

- One farmer or farmer representative
- One expert on childhood nutrition

May include members from:

- University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
- Department of Education
- Department of Agriculture

Additional resources



- <https://nhfarmtoschool.org/nh-farm-to-school-policy/www.nhfarmtoschool.org/nh-farm-to-school-policy>
- www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2024-07-22/a-new-law-will-help-some-nh-schools-access-local-food
- <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-and-media/governor-chris-sununu-signs-33-bills-law-vetoes-2>