

Dear lawmakers,

Please support the Farm to School Bill in Minnesota with HF 811 & SF 1346!

Our public schools have a long way to go on providing healthy, delicious foods to our children. Minnesota is behind the National average on how involved our schools are with local farm fresh food being served to our kids. The Farm to School Bill will help make some of those big steps possible for schools that are interested in moving that direction, while making good real food more available to all.

*“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.”* [From the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy website.](#)

With the creation of a statewide farm to school coordinator position much of the day to day tasks could be handled more efficiently and increase the rate of implementation and the amount of farm fresh food getting to our kids. I also really like that the bill makes it possible for up to 20% of grant dollars to go to Ag in the classroom education, including schoolyard gardens. I recently attended the [Minnesota Schoolyard Garden Conference](#) and was impressed with how many teachers, support staff and parent volunteers are already on the ground and on board with getting our kids a deeper relationship to their food. I believe growing your own food and knowing where it comes from has lasting health benefits.

I want our state to think about educating the whole child, not just look at test scores.

If for no other reason please think of the locally generated dollars; for every \$1 invested into local farm to school foods, an additional \$2.16 is generated in the local economy.

Here’s a link to a [recent post](#) on my blog in support of this bill.

Please support this bill and the children in your state.

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Bruhn  
651-206-7605

2125 Floral Drive  
White Bear Lake, MN