

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 9, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Majority of the Committee on Education to which
was referred HB 1657-FN-A,**

**AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire farm to school
reimbursement program. Having considered the same,
report the same with the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ralph Boehm

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1657-FN-A
Title:	establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.
Date:	February 9, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill establishes a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program and makes an appropriation therefor. This bill will require local school districts to contract with farms for food. School districts can do this now with their local farms. Other than a few items, farm produce is not available year round, and usually not grown in large commodity amounts as stated by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets and Food. The Department of Education (DOE) estimates these new responsibilities would require additional appropriations to the department approximating \$180,000 for each year through FY25. Set-up costs to establish the program are also high for local education agencies and will be additional costs to the taxpayer. This bill also requires reimbursement from DOE to the local education agencies which results in an additional appropriation of \$600,000, and testimony from the DOE stated that more will be needed. This will be a non-funded mandate. Although the bill discusses different tier-1 and tier-2 reimbursement costs for products from NH versus products from surrounding states, there is no clear definition of "origin of the produce;" that may be from NH, but processed and combined with other food elements in neighboring states by non-NH businesses outside the state. This bill has good intent, but is not ready and needs more work.

Vote 10-8.

Rep. Ralph Boehm
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 1657-FN-A, establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Ralph Boehm for the **Majority** of Education. This bill establishes a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program and makes an appropriation therefor. This bill will require local school districts to contract with farms for food. School districts can do this now with their local farms. Other than a few items, farm produce is not available year round, and usually not grown in large commodity amounts as stated by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets and Food. The Department of Education (DOE) estimates these new responsibilities would require additional appropriations to the department approximating \$180,000 for each year through FY25. Set-up costs to establish the program are also high for local education agencies and will be additional costs to the taxpayer. This bill also requires reimbursement from DOE to the local education agencies which results in an additional appropriation of \$600,000, and testimony from the DOE stated that more will be needed. This will be a non-funded mandate. Although the bill discusses different tier-1 and tier-2 reimbursement costs for products from NH versus products from surrounding states, there is no clear definition of "origin of the produce;" that may be from NH, but processed and combined with other food elements in neighboring states by non-NH businesses outside the state. This bill has good intent, but is not ready and needs more work. **Vote 10-8.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 9, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Minority of the Committee on Education to which
was referred HB 1657-FN-A,**

**AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire farm to school
reimbursement program. Having considered the same,
and being unable to agree with the Majority, report
with the recommendation that the bill be REFERRED
FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Linda Tanner

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1657-FN-A
Title:	establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.
Date:	February 9, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill connects the local farms with the public schools through the lunch program. The farms have the opportunity to market their products to our schools. Schools would have the incentive to include more local products in their lunch programs. Students would have fresh, locally grown food and a better understanding of local farms. The program has great potential to provide a connection for students and schools with our local farms, many of them family farms. This bill deserves more attention to enable implementation and should go further with an Interim Study.

Rep. Linda Tanner
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 1657-FN-A, establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Linda Tanner for the **Minority** of Education. This bill connects the local farms with the public schools through the lunch program. The farms have the opportunity to market their products to our schools. Schools would have the incentive to include more local products in their lunch programs. Students would have fresh, locally grown food and a better understanding of local farms. The program has great potential to provide a connection for students and schools with our local farms, many of them family farms. This bill deserves more attention to enable implementation and should go further with an Interim Study.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1657-FN-A

BILL TITLE: establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.

DATE: February 9, 2022

LOB ROOM: 207

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Boehm

Seconded by Rep. A. Lekas

Vote: 10-8

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Melissa Litchfield, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # 1657

BILL TITLE: Farm to School
DATE: 2/9/22
LOB ROOM: 207

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year)
- (if offered)*

Moved by Rep. Buehm Seconded by Rep. Lukas Vote: 10-8

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year)
- (if offered)*

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year)
- (if offered)*

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year)
- (if offered)*

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

Minority Report? Yes No If yes, author, Rep: Rep Tanner Motion IS

Respectfully submitted: _____
Rep. Melissa Litchfield, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Education

Bill #: 1657 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2/9/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman <i>last</i>	10		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman <i>first</i>	1		
Litchfield, Melissa A. Clerk	2		
Boehm, Ralph G.	3		
Lekas, Alicia D.	4		
Moffett, Michael	5		
Hobson, Deborah L.	6		
Ford, Oliver J.	7		
Soti, Julius F.	8		
Nelson, Bill G.	9		
Myler, Mel-Walz, Mary Beth <i>Second</i>		2	
Luneau, David J. <i>First</i>		1	
Cornell, Patricia			
Tanner, Linda L.		3	
Ellison, Arthur S.		4	
Mullen, Sue M.		5	
Woodcock, Stephen L.		6	
Porter, Marjorie		7	
A. Hall, Muriel C.		8	
TOTAL VOTE:	10	8	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1657-FN-A

BILL TITLE: establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.

DATE: January 12, 2022

LOB ROOM: 207 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:30am

Time Adjourned: 11:25

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, Cordelli, Boehm, A. Lekas, Moffett, Hobson, Ford, Soti, B. Nelson, Litchfield, Myler, Luneau, Cornell, Tanner, Ellison, Mullen, Woodcock, Hall and Porter

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Simpson

Rep. Mullen

Rep. Allard

Rep. Loughman

Rep. Deshaies

Rep. Massimilla

Rep. Marsh

Rep. M. Murray

Rep. McGhee

Rep. Merchant

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

***Rep. Alexis Simpson**

- Introduced the bill and read a one-page testimony from her school nutrition expert

Rep. Lekas

- Asked why schools don't already do this?

Rep. Simpson

- Said some do, some don't. This creates an incentive

Rep. Moffett

- Asked if this would be a permanent program?

Rep. Simpson

- Not sure

Rep. Ladd

- Asked about milk going out of state and then coming back Tier 1 vs. Tier 2?

Rep. Murray

- Spoke for the educational and parental perspectives on the bill

Rep. Kat McGhee

- Spoke for the bill and local growers

Karl Johnson - NOF-NH

- Spoke for the bill

Maria Peres

- Spoke for the bill

Chris Faro - Fresh Picks Cafe

- Supports HB 1657

***Stacey Purslow**

- Did not take a position on the bill but provided a NH Farm to School perspective.

Rep. Woodcock

- Confirmed that only 41 school districts responded

Jessica Gorhan - NH Hunger Solutions

- Spoke for the bill

McKenzie Snow - DOE

- Introduced Kelly Raubeault who is doing DOE

Rep. Cordelli'

- Asked McKenzie about the true cost which would be approximately \$780K

Rep Ford

- Asked about application of the program funds

Rep. Boehm

- Asked if the state could apply for USDA grants.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Michelle Litchfield

House Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB1657 on 2022-01-12

Support: 1 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Gerrior, Jessica	Antrim, NH jess@cornucopiaproject.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 12:30 PM
Allayne, Karina	New Boston, NH Karina.bertrand@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 1:37 PM
purslow, stacey	Rochester, NH purs2@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 2:02 PM
Johnson, Karl	Monroe, NH kjohnson@nofanh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 2:09 PM
Anastasia, Patricia	Londonderry, NH patti.anastasia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 2:46 PM
Stewart, Colleen	Salem, NH cm.stewart024@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 4:36 PM
Furlone, Jackie	Keene, NH Jackie.furlone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 9:09 PM
Hesseltine, Steve	Bangor, ME Steve.hesseltine@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/7/2022 10:09 PM
Cox, Debbi	Laconia, NH covenotes12@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 7:35 AM
Merriam, Karen	Epping, NH Yokaren@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 7:48 AM
Prescott, Valerie	Rye, NH chvatr@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 7:51 AM
Merchant, Rep. Gary	Claremont, NH gary.merchant@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 9:08 AM
Dodson, Julianna	Spofford, NH juliannadodson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 11:14 AM

Kovalcik, Anna	Barrington, NH Anna@Kovalcik.us	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 11:35 AM
Manzelli, Amy	Pembroke, NH manzelli@nhlandlaw.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 12:30 PM
Cutting, Sarah	Alexandria, NH mrscutting211@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 12:46 PM
Coughlin, Cynthia	Merrimack, NH coughlin29@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 1:04 PM
Lamb, Amy	Concord, NH aelambnh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 1:06 PM
HARING-SMITH, TORI	PETERBOROUGH, NH tharingsmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 1:09 PM
Nixon, Sherrill	Exeter, NH sherri.nixon1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 4:27 PM
Guyen, Taci	Windham, NH Taci.guyen@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 5:32 PM
Lindsey, Judith	Candia, NH judilindsey@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 8:28 PM
Libby, Heather	Merrimack, NH hmwilson04@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 7:22 AM
Wright, KC	New London, NH rocknwoods@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 7:35 AM
Wright, Barry	New London, NH rocknwoods@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 7:36 AM
Sherwood, Jacob	Marlow, NH jaholubeck@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 10:30 AM
Burns, Scott	Franklin, NH, NH scottaburns.2020@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 12:46 PM
Coon, Kate and Seth	Peterborough, NH kate2coon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 12:58 PM
howie, mary	slem, NH mary@howielegal.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 7:45 AM
Weeman, Joel	Freedom, NH joelweeman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 9:16 AM
Jean, Carol	Berlin, NH C.jean143@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:14 AM

Donald, Kathleen	Brentwood, NH katedonaldnh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:18 AM
Berkeley, Wendy	Somersworth, NH berkeleyw4@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:37 AM
Stockwell, Dean	Colebrook, NH DeanAStock@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:46 AM
Smith, Maria	MANCHESTER, NH smithmaria727@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:51 AM
Carbonneau, Laura	Keene, NH lwc9805@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 11:25 AM
Small, Jameson	Nottingham, NH jsmall@refugeesuccess.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 11:28 AM
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/10/2022 1:05 PM
Bletzer, Hallina	Hampton, NH juicygirl188@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 1:59 PM
Demers, Doris	Rochester, NH ddems5@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 2:06 PM
DeMark, Richard	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 3:20 PM
Graham, Damaris	Gilsum, NH damarisg@badgerbalm.com	A Member of the Public	W.S. Badger Co.	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 3:52 PM
Willey, Elizabeth	South Hampton, NH lizwilley67@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 5:37 PM
Warner, Kelly	Exeter, NH kellwarner@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 7:59 PM
Simpson, Alexis	Exeter, NH alexis.simpson@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	House District 36	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:40 AM
Howard, Lauren	Bradford, NH lehoward4@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Lauren Howard	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:27 AM
Frew, Jerome	Concord, NH jerry@nhsaa.org	A Lobbyist	NHSAA	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:58 PM
Woitkowski, Rebecca	Concord, NH rwoitkowski@new-futures.org	A Lobbyist	New Futures Kids Count	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:02 PM
Fogarty, Sean	Exeter, NH seanf186@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:21 PM

Lancaster, Rebecca	Keene, NH rebecca@stonewallfarm.org	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:27 PM
Piscetta, Patricia	Belmont, NH djppisce@atlanticbb.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:42 PM
Gullicksen, Amy	Tamworth, NH Ellibelli8@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 2:09 PM
Trought, Elizabeth A	Dorchester, NH batrought@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 3:10 PM
Vaughan, Nancy	Manchester, NH nancy.vaughan@heart.org	A Lobbyist	American Heart Association	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 3:15 PM
Dannin, Joshua	Bethlehem, NH jdannin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 3:22 PM
Angers, Laura	Bethlehem, NH angers.laura@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 3:22 PM
Talcott, Erin	BETHLEHEM, NH erin.malay@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 3:22 PM
Callahan, Jennifer	Lebanon, NH Jangers9@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 4:02 PM
Dallabetta, Christine	Tamworth, NH cdallabetta@ymail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 4:53 PM
Newnan, Jessica	Concord, NH jessica.erin.39@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 5:56 PM
Miville, Emily	Concord, NH emmimiville@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 5:59 PM
Elgar, Georgia	Milton, NH georgiaelgar47@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:04 PM
Browne, Philip	Loudon, NH sosnh16@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:53 PM
Fanning, Charles	Exeter, NH charlesfanning@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 10:25 PM
Dudra, Karen	Exeter, NH Kdudra@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 12:20 AM
Davis, Joanne	CONCORD, NH jdavis101855@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 5:34 AM
farnum, Ellen	Tamworth, NH ellenlynnfarnum@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 7:13 AM

St John, Michelle	Hollis, NH stjohnmichelle@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:05 AM
Petrin Ellis, Kacie	Brookline, NH Kpetrin_ellis@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:08 AM
Augun, Audrey	Hollis, NH Ajaugun@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:09 AM
Bryant, Marlise	Hollis, NH marlischome@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:31 AM
Bryant, Michael	Hollis, NH bryantmike322@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:32 AM
Moulton, Candace	Manchester, NH candaceleighm@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:37 AM
COMEAU, DENNIS	Brookline, NH searchlight@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:38 AM
Hawkins, Brian	Concord, NH bhawkins@nhnea.org	A Lobbyist	NEA-NH	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:47 AM
Gatchell, Lucy	Tamworth, NH lucygatchell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:56 AM
Masella, Dennis	Hollis, NH allesam@tellink.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:56 AM
Miller, Laurie	Hollis, NH Laurie@millersnh.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 10:05 AM
Porter, Todd	Hollis, NH admiral5555@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 10:16 AM
perez, maria	milford, NH mariaeli63@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 10:17 AM
Birch, Anna	Hollis, NH annabirch22@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 11:03 AM
Roddy, Mark	Hollis, NH markr@hollistech.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 11:07 AM
LaBombard, Jone	Hollis, NH jlabombard@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 12:32 PM
Hamer, Heidi	Manchester, NH heidi.hamer@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 12:41 PM
Carr, Judith	Hollis, NH Judycarr@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 6:31 PM

Kellner, Russell	HOLLIS, NH rkellner@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 7:18 PM
Mullin, Tera	Hollis, NH Tera.mullin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 8:50 PM

Farm to School testimony

Good morning. I'm Karl Johnson — Board President of Northeast Organic Farmers Association of New Hampshire. NOFA-NH is a non-profit organization devoted to supporting and promoting organic farming in this state. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

New Hampshire farms, both organic and conventional, are struggling to stay in business when we most need them.

At a time when climate change and economic uncertainty suggest that we should be increasing local food production, New Hampshire farmers are fighting for their lives against large-scale U.S. farms and even farms halfway around the world. They need our help to stay afloat.

At the same time, New Hampshire schools are struggling to afford fresh and nutritious meals for our children. Recent shortages have impacted school districts' ability to purchase fresh produce items. My great-grandchildren often come home from school with uneaten, school-supplied, nutritionally-lacking snacks in their backpacks.

Farm to School presents an opportunity for us to help solve both problems. Selling to schools is a major market for local farmers. It provides them the potential for significant new revenue.

Farm to School lets farmers tap into a stable revenue stream that is most active during a typically lean time for farmers—the school year. Financial stability is essential for keeping New Hampshire farmers farming and keeping their land safe from development.

Farm to School also strengthens the local economy. By supporting local farmers, schools keep dollars in the local economy. And purchasing New Hampshire products contributes to our tax base, which in turn funds our public schools.

Finally, the Farm to School Program helps students learn why local food is good for health, the environment and the economy.

I urge you to support this valuable legislation.

Thank you.

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:51 AM

From: [Elsa Worth](#)

Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 1:44:39 PM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: HB 1657

Importance: Normal

Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HG 1657. Not only would this increase commerce for local NH small farmers, but more importantly, it will bring more nutrition and a healthier relationship to food and the earth to our children. It will also reduce fossil fuel use, as the food has shorter distances to travel to get to the students' plates.

This is truly a win/win bill which improves the quality of life for many of our citizens. Thank you for doing all you can to increase the amount of local, organic, wholesome food in our schools, to support local growers and reshape our relationship with what we eat.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Elsa Worth, Rector
St. James Episcopal Church
44 West Street
Keene, NH 03431
603-352-1019
cell: 203-984-2906

blog: [https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com?](https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com?d=stjameskeene.com&u=d3d3LnN0amFtZXNrZWVuZS5jb20vcmV0dXJuaW5nYW5kcmVzdC8=&i=NWViOWEzNmVkMDA3MzIxNzcxMzJhMTI1&t=a3RXeVNXZ2xRSWxVa0pYbHRKZFJpcDVMOTRpRzJqZERqaE5zdElmeXpEVT0=&h=09d3fc947db347a0ad290069ef9c240a)

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Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:38 AM
From: [Jim Verschueren](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 11:56:13 PM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB1567 Farms to Schools
Importance: Normal

Greetings Chairman Ladd & Education Committee Members,
Hello to those I once served with and to those who have come on since.
I learned recently about HB1567 - seems to me a win-win opportunity for local farmers
and healthy food for our students. I hope you will vote OTP on this one.
all the best,
Jim Verschueren (he/him)
Education committee - 2015 - 2017
603-978-0398



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM
From: judi lindsey
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:03:10 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Cc: Alan Bershtein; James Spillane; Kevin Verville
Subject: Support HB 1657
Importance: Normal

Dear NH House Education Committee Chairman Ladd and Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB 1657 - Local Foods for Local Schools.

What a great piece of legislation this is! Finally, an opportunity to bring local, healthy food to our local school children.

Having been a teacher for 23 years in NH schools, I have seen school lunch programs and what they offer and do not offer. I also understand the vital connection between healthy foods, healthy kids and a healthy environment.

Not only would our children grow up stronger, healthier and more ready to learn, but they would be educated in where their food comes from and the importance of using local food and its positive effect on our local economies.

We used to host Agricultural Day at Moore School. It was amazing to see how many children didn't realize where their food came from. After this event, they were all more aware of and attuned to the benefits of their local farms and forests.

HB 1657 is a win-win for all of us. Please give it your support!

Sincerely,
Judi Lindsey
822 North Road
Candia, NH

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM

From: [Kathleen Bigford](#)

Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:32:16 PM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: House Bill 1657

Importance: Normal

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Kearsarge Food Hub, a NH voter, and a retired teacher of middle school students, I support the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill because I know the importance of providing our students with fresh, local, nutrient-dense food grown in New Hampshire. I also know that money from this bill will make available learning opportunities to students to enrich their knowledge of how food is grown, as well as how they can participate in and contribute to their local economy and community.

Please let me know what other action(s) I can take to make this bill a reality.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bigford
349 West Road
Bradford, NH 03221
603 938 5104

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM

From: [richard demark](#)

Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 3:29:55 PM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: HB 1657

Importance: Normal

I worked in the NH agriculture and local food movement for over 35 years. I was there at the start of the NH Farm To School initiative. I have helped farmers and specialty food products with their business plans. It became obvious to all of us that schools needed incentives to purchase local food. It can be more time consuming and expensive than using the large corporate food distributors. But, it is critically important to students health and the economic health of Nh farmers to purchase local food. Please pass HB 1657 now. Thank you.

Richard DeMark

114 Chase Road

Meredith, NH 03253

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM

From: Wendy Berkeley

Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 11:59:53 AM

To: ~House Education Committee

Subject: Support HB 1657

Importance: Normal

Though I write representing my *personal* support for **HB 1657(Local Foods for Local Schools)**, I wish to share my experience in our school district.

I have worked in the Somersworth School District as the Farm to School Coordinator since 2016, and one of our consistent missions has been to increase local food access. In a district where free/reduced lunch rates have hovered around 40% since I was hired, this indicator suggests food insecurity for a significant number of students in our district. My children go to school with many of these students. I know and care about these students, and feel strongly that economic barriers absolutely should not be barriers to learning, particularly when food access is bounded. Somersworth is a supportive community that embraced the Farm to School mission to include school gardens in curriculum and increase food access well before the Obama administration's 2012 introduction of the USDA Farm to School grant program. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-grant-program> Teachers in Somersworth have built, maintained, and harvested from school gardens with students, their families, and community volunteers well before Farm to School became a movement. Our students have and continue to learn where food comes from, what foods taste like that may not be served at home, and how to work together toward a high yield of healthy food. We have shared these harvests with families, with local cafes who feature school grown produce on their menus, and with our local farmers market organization, Seacoast Eat Local.

Somersworth schools have twice been awarded USDA Farm to School grants, and I write to you today as a paid coordinator through our current Implementation Grant. Our grant includes funds to purchase food from local growers, to be included in our cafeteria offerings and within lessons from the NH Harvest of the Month calendar. [Harvest Lessons](#) This year, with supply chains interrupted due to the covid ripple effect, we have found the financial flexibility to purchase locally extremely helpful in getting fresh food into students mouths, and into teachers hands to conduct creative and engaging lessons. While many foods remain stuck and withering in warehouses and shipping containers, relief from this stressor has been a gift in a most stressful school year.

Though I don't have the authority to speak for our school district, I can speak for myself as a parent, and as an employee in the school district whose eyes are on this issue approximately 20 hours a week. The feedback from local farmers and purveyors is that when we buy locally, our dollars support our local economy, our local community, and our local families. I would like for all school districts in NH, and in our great nation, to feel that kind of support. Please vote in favor of HB 1657.

Wendy Berkeley
Somersworth NH

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM

From: [Patti Anastasia](#)

Sent: Sunday, January 9, 2022 6:05:35 PM

To: ~House Education Committee

Cc: [Al Baldasaro](#); [Betsy McKinney](#); [Doug Thomas](#); [Wayne MacDonald](#); [David Lundgren](#); [Sherman Packard](#); [Tom Dolan](#)

Subject: HB 1657 and HB 1684 testimony

Importance: Normal

Dear Committee members,

Please consider this testimony as you discuss these bills.

HB1657 establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.

I support this bill. A farm to school program is good for both NH students and NH and New England farmers. It will both put nutritious local food in the schools and provide local farmers with income. It will also provide teaching opportunities for schools to work with local farms.

HB1684 limiting education freedom account funding to budgeted amounts.

I support this bill. The current education freedom account draws far exceed what was appropriated in the budget. This bill will limit education freedom account funding to funds appropriated to the education trust fund.

Regards,

Patricia Anastasia
50 Holstein Avenue
Londonderry, NH

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM
From: [Julianna Dodson](#)
Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 9:50:37 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: In Support of HOUSE BILL 1657-FN-A
Importance: Normal

I am writing to express my support of HOUSE BILL 1657-FN-A.

When my daughter started school this year, I was absolutely shocked at what she was being offered on a daily basis. In any one given day, she could have:

1. Chocolate covered donuts, lucky charms cereal, and Trix yogurt for breakfast or snack with chocolate milk
2. Chocolate milk and whatever is being served for lunch, which I know is intended to be a variety with options for vegetables and fruits at each meal, but (even though my daughter eats vegetables like it's her job at home) she told me that she didn't want to eat the veggies at school because they were mushy and didn't taste good.

Almost every left over snack she has brought home in her backpack I have thrown away because there was absolutely no value to ingesting it. This is coming from someone who HATES throwing things away and is dedicated to eradicating food waste.

The first couple of months of school when she was eating the school food, I noticed a huge difference in her mood, her ability to focus, and how she felt. She was bouncing all over the place and then crashing, unable to concentrate, etc.

Kids NEED less processed, nutrient dense food. I've heard the argument "this is the only meal some kids get all day, so we should make it something they will actually eat." I can't accept that. If this is the only meal they eat all day it should be one that can give them what they need to feed their brains and bodies.

Why are farms not able to stay open when consistent, predictable consumer markets are right around the corner? Why are we advancing catastrophic global warming with air pollutants by transporting food all over the country when we can get it in our own backyards?

There are also lots of studies about how eating local foods can help with immunity to local illness as well as helping to mitigate allergies.

I am happy to do whatever I can to help with this process.

I could have made this sound more scientific, but I thought personal experience might be more meaningful. Thank you for listening!

Julianna Dodson
540-524-8514

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM

From: Daniel Richardson

Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 7:20:51 PM

To: ~House Education Committee

Cc: Tom Lanzara; Alexis Simpson; Megan Murray; Sue Mullen; Linda Massimilla; Kat McGhee; Gary Merchant; Tom Loughman; JC Allard; William Marsh

Subject: Regarding HB 1657 - establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program

Importance: Normal

Ref: Jan 12, 2022 Meeting

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE -

I am writing in reference to HB1292. This bill would create new RSA subsection 189:74 Farm to School Reimbursement Program. It concerns specification and funding of districts participating in the National School Lunch Program... very much akin to RSA subsection 189:11-a Food and Nutrition Programs. It is not understood as to rationale in segregating these very like functions. Does not seem to make sense. The bill should have been written as an add on to RSA 189:11-a.

The bill appears to be aimed at spending food budgets regionally, with perhaps some hidden health goal, all of which being unstated as to its rationale. It may be a laudable goal if there was some volume or dollar correlation between the purchasing needs of SAUs and the availability of specific food sources. The tier one and 2 levels appear completely arbitrary. Similarly, no rationale is provided for the proposed funding appropriation amount or its funding source.

This bill needs a close examination to determine its goal, if it addresses a real problem and rationale for its proposed scope.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua NH

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:09 AM
From: [John Carroll](#)
Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 4:03:09 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: HB 1657 - Local Food for Local Schools
Importance: Normal

To the Members of the House Education Committee,

Please support HB 1657 - Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Program. This bill will give a needed boost to New Hampshire's farmers and will support New Hampshire's rural economy. Thank you very much.

Carroll
College of Life Sciences and Agriculture
UNH
Road, Durham, NH 03824

John E.
Professor Emeritus,
54 Canney

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:10 AM
From: [Mario Capozzoli](#)
Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 1:25:46 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Cc: [NOFA-NH Info](#)
Subject: My support of HB 1657
Importance: Normal

Dear members of the Education Committee:

I'm writing in support of House Bill 1657-FN-A that proposes to establish a farm-to-school reimbursement program.

As an avid gardener and orchardist, a chef, a UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, and an active member of the Northeast Organic Farmers Assoc- NH, I'm well aware of the dual importance of feeding our students fresher foods while simultaneously supporting local sources - farmers, fruit growers, anglers, etc- who would supply local food for our schools.

Classic win-win. This is not a partisan political issue. This is something we can do together- both sides of the aisle- that promotes health, wellness, entrepreneurship, local business, self-reliance, and NH-First priorities.

And if more young people get in the habit of eating locally raised, grown, and caught foods, then we might see a boost in Granite State agriculture, both on the production and consumer sides.

It wasn't long ago that former NH Ag Commissioner Lorraine Merrill set the tone for rejuvenating NH's great agricultural traditions. Now is the time to support this bill.

Be well,

Mario Capozzoli
Sunapee

~~~~~  
**Model the Way**  
**Inspire a Shared Vision**  
**Challenge the Process**  
**Enable Others to Act**  
**Encourage the Heart**

~~~~~  
L. Mario Capozzoli, 3rd
SOCIAL ARCHITECT
603.558.3701 personal cell
603.504.4855 work cell (text is fastest way to reach me!)
Sent from my iPhone so please excuse any typos. Siri has a problem with my thick accent.

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:10 AM

From: [Dr. Tori Haring-Smith](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 1:14:25 PM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: HB 1657

Importance: Normal

I urge you to support HB1657 not only to improve the health of our schoolchildren (our future) but also to support our local farms, which have been a mainstay in NH since the state's founding. Research shows that local foods help those who live nearby get fresher food with more nutrients and they are less likely to cause allergies. They are also not irradiated or gassed to ripen them during shipment. Keep our children and our state vibrant. Pass HB1657

--

Tori Haring-Smith

Peterborough, NH

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Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:10 AM
From: [KFH Info](#)
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 11:07:07 AM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: Support for House bill 1657-FN-A
Importance: Normal

House Education Committee,

The Kearsarge Food Hub, an NH based nonprofit organization working to increase access to and education about local foods, supports the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill because it provides additional opportunities for NH schools who participate in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and/or the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program to bring more nutrient-dense local food into our children's cafeterias.

Thank you for your consideration!

Hanna Flanders, (She/Her)
Cofounder, Director of Community Engagement

Kearsarge Food Hub, Home of Sweet Beet: www.kearsargefoodhub.org
603-455-6196

Keep in touch with all the good news coming out of KFH and Sweet Beet - [sign up for our email communications.](#)

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:10 AM

From: [Hanna Flanders](#)

Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 11:03:53 AM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: Support for House Bill 1657-FN-A

Importance: Normal

House Education Committee,

The Flanders Family in Bradford, NH supports the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill because we feel strongly that our children should have access to more healthy, local food at school and we are passionate about supporting the local food economy and our community

Thank you!

Hanna Flanders, (She/Her)

Cofounder, Director of Community Engagement

Kearsarge Food Hub, Home of Sweet Beet: www.kearsargefoodhub.org

603-455-6196

Keep in touch with all the good news coming out of KFH and Sweet Beet - [sign up for our email communications.](#)

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:10 AM

From: [Jason Jennings](#)

Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 9:32:43 AM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: HB 1657

Importance: Normal

Good Morning,

Happy New Years!

I am a resident of Salem, NH and I am emailing to let you know that I support HB 1657, an act establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program. I support this program because I feel strongly that our community's children should have access to more healthy, local food at school and I am passionate about supporting the local food economy and our community

Best Regards,

Jason Jennings

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30:10 AM

From: [Colleen Stewart](#)

Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 9:21:14 AM

To: ~House Education Committee

Subject: I Support HB 1657, NH Farm to School Reimbursement Program

Importance: Normal

Good Morning!

I am a resident of Salem, NH and I am emailing to let you know that I support HB 1657, an act establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program. I support this program because I feel strongly that our community's children should have access to more healthy, local food at school and I am passionate about supporting the local food economy and our community.

--

All the best,

Colleen Stewart

stewingthepot.com

(203) 520-7598

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:33:54 AM
From: [Edith Couchman](#)
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:39:45 AM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Cc: kat.mcgee@leg.state.nh.us
Subject: Support for Local Foods for Local Schools HB1657
Importance: Normal

Dear Members of the House Educational Committee,

I would like to add my voice to the many urging you to support the Local Foods for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill, HB1657. This bill would create an effective path for us to begin improving both the health of our children and the health of rural economies.

Certainly, children's nutrition deserves to be a top priority. If this is true, then why should federal dollars for school lunches be flowing off to distant corporations for the purchase of overly processed, factory-farmed products? Instead, more of these dollars should be cycling within local communities and farms so that our young people can be nourished with the freshest, most nutrient dense fruits and vegetables and / or locally sourced and processed poultry, eggs, beef, etc.

Moreover, during this time of climate change, broken supply chains, and pandemics, shouldn't we be doing all that we can to ensure that the Granite State is self-reliant and resilient in terms of the regional food supply? This means making certain that farmers in our area can find steady, fair, and remunerative markets. Providing food for children in school is one avenue for this. If we're to keep farmers farming and improve the state's food production capacities, shouldn't we be investing as many Federal dollars as possible into the agricultural sector - a truly green form of essential infrastructure? The small amount of state revenue that this bill requires to begin catalyzing the transformation of school lunch programs seems very worthwhile. It will yield significant and real benefits for many people beginning almost as soon as it is implemented and extending into the future.

As a former teacher for over 25 years in the Greater Nashua region (in public, parochial, and independent school settings), and as a parent of students who participated in school lunch programs, I see HB1657 as a wonderful opportunity to direct my tax dollars towards increasing the health of young people and the sustainability of our agricultural capacity. I hope you will support this legislation too.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Edith Pucci Couchman

Edith Pucci Couchman
88 Wheeler Road
Hollis, NH 03049
603.465.3502
epcouchman@aol.com

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:33:54 AM
From: [Maria D. Smith](#)
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 12:08:18 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: HB1657 Support
Importance: Normal

To whom it may concern,

The New Hampshire Food Bank and Cooking Matters New Hampshire supports the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill because it provides additional opportunities for NH schools who participate in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and/or the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program to bring more nutrient-dense local food into our children's cafeterias.

All the best,

Maria Smith
Cooking Matters NH Coordinator

New Hampshire Food Bank
700 E Industrial Park Dr
Manchester, NH 03109

Visit www.nhfoodbank.org to make a donation.

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#),| [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



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Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:33:54 AM
From: [Sam Bator](#)
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 9:59:25 AM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: Support Farm to School Bill HB1657
Importance: Normal

Dear House Education Committee,

Please support HB1657-FN-A, Establishing a NH Farm to School Reimbursement Program, headed to your committee next week on 1/12/21.

Incentives to increase local spending are necessary to shift the mindsets and status quo to a more local and sustainable food procurement model in our state. This bill will support our public schools and NH farmers and producers, directly benefiting our students by providing them with fresher, more nutrient dense local food, and providing them with learning opportunities about our local food system.

Thank you for your anticipated support and your service to the State of NH,

Sam Bator

--

Sam Bator
Assistant Education Director
Stonewall Farm
(603) 357-7278
sam@stonewallfarm.org
she/her/ hers

Archived: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:33:55 AM
From: [Rebecca Lancaster](#)
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 9:17:56 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: Support Farm to School Bill HB1657
Importance: Normal

Dear House Education Committee,

Please support HB1657-FN-A, Establishing a NH Farm to School Reimbursement Program, headed to your committee next week on 1/12/21.

Incentives to increase local spending are necessary to shift the mindsets and status quo to a more local and sustainable food procurement model in our state. This bill will support our public schools and NH farmers and producers, directly benefiting our students by providing them with fresher, more nutrient dense local food.

Thank you for your anticipated support and your service to the State of NH,

Rebecca Lancaster

--

Rebecca Lancaster
Youth Education Director
Stonewall Farm
603-352-5577
rebecca@stonewallfarm.org

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:28 AM
From: Justin Munroe
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:47:06 PM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB1657 Local Food for Local Schools
Importance: Normal

Dear Chairman Ladd and members of House Education Committee,

We write today to ask for your support of HB 1657. This bill is important to us at Grow Nashua, the families we serve, and the children of our city for a variety of reasons. Over the past 2 years we have all learned that our local food resiliency is fragile, and as a non profit we have been working locally to make a shift in our collective thought processes from being food consumers to becoming food producers and engaging in our local food system. To start, HB 1657 offers support to our local farmers that are already growing and trying to sell their produce. The bill also supports the future generation of children who benefit from eating fresh food grown or produced around their own community. Additionally, Grow Nashua has a Growing Education program in the elementary schools of Nashua and we see the Local Food for Local Schools bill as a launching point for an abundance of educational opportunities, some of which include:

- foods that are grown or produced close to where we live, in our state, or in our region
- fruits and vegetables that are in season throughout the year
- nutritional and environmental benefits of choosing locally grown foods
- our local food system
- agricultural jobs

HB1657 will also create opportunities for students to try new foods and connect with what they eat by having an understanding of where it was grown or produced, both of which benefit children and help to form healthy eating habits.

On behalf of our community, thank you for your consideration of HB1657.

Sincerely,
Justin Munroe and the Grow Nashua Team

Grow Nashua | Justin Munroe | Executive Director | 603.886.7071

Grow Nashua's Vision

"To create a more reliable and just future one neighborhood at a time"

Email to get active or [click here](#) to donate to our community outreach!

Archived: Thursday, February 3, 2022 10:59:47 AM

From: [Mary Anne Broshek](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 5:44:14 PM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: HB1657

Importance: Normal

I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of this bill- hb 1657. As someone who lives on a farm and has done a lot of farming in the past -I think it is a great idea and will help to keep farmland as farmland.

Mary Anne Broshek
Andover



**NORTHEAST ORGANIC
FARMING ASSOCIATION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

84 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-5022
info@nofanh.org
www.nofanh.org

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February 2, 2022

The Honorable Rick Ladd, Chair

New Hampshire House Education Committee Legislative Office, Room
207 Concord, NH 03301

Subject: 2022 House Bill 1657— AN ACT establishing a New
Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program

Dear Honorable Chair Ladd and Members of the Committee,

We, the undersigned, support the legislation under HB 1657, the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill, that will provide funding for a reimbursement program to incentivize participating New Hampshire schools and food service directors to purchase locally grown and produced food for breakfast and lunch services.

We believe that all students need good nutrition to learn well. The Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program will boost youth health and wellness, and support the economic viability of New Hampshire's farms.

A state investment of \$600k in the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program, combined with \$1.2 million federal dollars participating New Hampshire schools receive as part of the funding for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, will inject \$1.8 million into New Hampshire's agricultural economy.

Participating schools will be reimbursed \$1 for every \$3 dollars spent on purchases from New Hampshire producers and fishers or \$1 for every \$6 spent on purchases from producers in other New England states, with a reimbursement cap of \$1,200 per school, per school year. Purchased foods will be required to meet qualifying criteria to be eligible for reimbursement. Eligible foods include dairy, fruits, vegetables, beef, poultry and eggs, pork, sustainably-caught fish, cider, and maple syrup and can be purchased directly from producers, from New Hampshire or regional food hubs, or through conventional distributors. All food purchased will require proof of origin on submitted invoices.

66,000 students in New Hampshire already participate in farm to school activities such as school garden programs, and nutrition, agriculture and cooking curriculum. The Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program will bring farm to school learnings from the classroom to the cafeteria. And students who do not have access to farm to school

programming will have the opportunity to learn about the variety of fruits, vegetables, and other products grown and produced both locally and regionally.

Please support fresh local food in our children's schools and fund the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program. Below are individual expressions of support and personal stories shared by some of the 74 undersigns of this letter.

"I was involved as a teacher in Vermont shortly after they passed farm to school legislation and the impact was transformative in connecting communities. I hope to see the same continue to happen in New Hampshire." — Laura White

"I'd like to see our community school be able to afford to feed our community children fresh vegetables from our community farms...including from my farm!" — Jennifer Wooster

"I work for a microgreen farm that grows sunflower greens, which are significantly more nutrient dense than other greens. We would love for public school students to enjoy the taste and nutrition of the greens but schools' tight budgets tend to limit their ability to purchase local products like ours." — Carissa Brewton

"As a NH citizen, I believe it is critical to give kids healthy and locally grown food, not only for their nutrition, but to support New Hampshire agriculture. Supporting local farmers ensures New Hampshire can meet the food security needs of its citizens as well as create a sustainable environment and vibrant local economy. Local foods are fresher, more nutritious, and beneficial for the economy - this is a clear winner to support and invest in the future of New Hampshire." — Nora Traviss

"As a college student and having recently gone through the education system, I seldom could rely on school lunches to meet my needs for fresh local fruits and vegetables. I often brought in packed lunch and the days I forgot I never enjoyed my lunch and felt worse after. I would love for all kids to have fresh local fruits and vegetables available at school, especially for kids of low income households who may not otherwise have access." — Hallina Bletzer

"I have three children and I want them to be fed nutrient rich and healthy food, when not in my care. Just as I want them to learn well, I want them to be fed foods that fuel their bodies and minds. Too much sugar in the current meals at school." — Käthe Barlow

"I work as a special educator and see first hand how many students appreciate and rely on the food provided by their school. Sometimes the foods provided are very sugary and processed. I would love to see more local and nutritious foods enter our school and other schools around the state. What a great way to support local agriculture and provide good, clean food for our children." — Elizabeth Dwyer

"I no longer have school aged children, however, as recently as last week, parents in my school district and a neighboring school district raised concerns about school lunch. The real example given was: a cinnamon bun, Trix yogurt, a cheese stick, a pear and milk for "lunch." This lunch technically fits the nutritional guidelines but in no way offers the nutrient dense foods that would allow students to thrive from a health perspective which is a key factor in their ability to achieve their maximum learning potential in school as we prepare them to become productive members of the community and workforce. The connection to local food is key to multiply the economic

benefit to NH and its communities as well as strengthening food systems whose vulnerabilities have been highlighted by the pandemic. The Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill represents an opportunity for NH lawmakers to think innovatively to address both educational and economic outcomes for the state while increasing resiliency in the food system which impacts all Granite Staters.” — Melinda Mosier

“This is a win win situation for our children and our local growers. We have a generation that is totally disconnected from their food source. My grandson learned to count by picking green beans in my garden. The closer we can get the next generation to their food source the better off they will be.” — Serena Benedict

Sincerely,

Ashley Connolly	Kris Pastoriza	Jennifer Risley	Laura White
Debbie Boivin	Gretchen Whitcomb	Patricia Dooley	Marti Kennedy
Margaret Barney	Matthew Goodwin	David Souther	Linda Zuckerman
Drew Bryenton	Savannah Audet	Jean Marie Bryenton	Julie Schaub
Nora Traviss	Vicki Mellon	Kaitlyn McCarthy	Evelyn Cutting
Sean Fogarty	Tracie Look	Sharyn Orvis	Katie Kurowski
Julianna Dodson	Ellen Chapman	Megan Battaglia	Gretchen Markiewicz
Suzanne Nadeau	Maureen Quinn	Holly Gowdy	Kathe Barlow
Christina Klueh	Elizabeth Dwyer	Melinda Mosier	Heidi Stanclift
Monica Marshall	Alison Keay	Sarah Griggs	Hallina Bletzer
Jennifer Glynn	Angela Ross	Rachel Freierman	Hannah Roy
Jill Tomlin	Jennie Blair	Serena Benedict	Barb Williams
Kristen Ramey	Jacqueline Charron	Alicia LaCrosse	Beth Draper
Jennifer Lindner	Bethany Kelleher	Lynn Quade	Tara Mahady
Amanda Winchester	Hannah Blood	Laura Collins	Scott Maslansky
Nick Wirkkala	Carissa Brewton	Mary Witschende	Albert Dekin
Kate Dobrowski	Edith Pucci Couchman	Kristin Lehmann	Jennifer Wooster
Rebecca Hutchins	Barbara Southard	Brooke Kelleher	Bevan Tulk
Tara Westenhiser			

Dear NH House Education Committee Members,

We, the undersigned, support the legislation under HB 1657, the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill, that will provide funding for a reimbursement program to incentivize participating New Hampshire schools and food service directors to purchase locally grown and produced food for breakfast and lunch services.

We believe that all students need good nutrition to learn well. The Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program will boost youth health and wellness, and support the economic viability of New Hampshire's farms.

A state investment of \$600k in the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program, combined with \$1.2 million federal dollars participating New Hampshire schools receive as part of the funding for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, will inject \$1.8 million into New Hampshire's agricultural economy.

Participating schools will be reimbursed \$1 for every \$3 dollars spent on purchases from New Hampshire producers and fishers or \$1 for every \$6 spent on purchases from producers in other New England states, with a reimbursement cap of \$1,200 per school, per school year. Purchased foods will be required to meet qualifying criteria to be eligible for reimbursement. Eligible foods include dairy, fruits, vegetables, beef, poultry and eggs, pork, sustainably-caught fish, cider, and maple syrup and can be purchased directly from producers, from New Hampshire or regional food hubs, or through conventional distributors. All food purchased will require proof of origin on submitted invoices.

66,000 students in New Hampshire already participate in farm to school activities such as school garden programs, and nutrition, agriculture and cooking curriculum. The Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program will bring farm to school learnings from the classroom to the cafeteria. And students who do not have access to farm to school programming will have the opportunity to learn about the variety of fruits, vegetables, and other products grown and produced both locally and regionally.

Please support fresh local food in our children's schools and fund the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement program.

Sincerely,

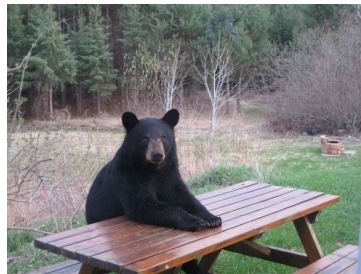
Fresh Picks Cafe	Fire Dog Breads
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success	Micro Mama's
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH)	Stockwell Farms
Fertile Fields Farm	Food Connects
Stonewall Farm	The Abbey Food Service Group
Kearsarge Food Hub	John Stark Regional High School
Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition	W.S. Badger Co.
Littleton Food Co-op	National Center for Appropriate Technology
Hungry Bear Farm	Seacoast Eat Local
Bascom Farm	Groh Farm



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Introducing the Local Food for Local Schools Bill
Rep. Alexis Simpson
January 12, 2022

Chairman Ladd and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 1657 this morning. I'm glad to be here this morning to introduce the Farm to School Reimbursement Policy Bill, also called the Local Food for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill. This bill represents many hours of dedicated time and energy from stakeholders across the state: those in the agriculture and food sectors, those in the school nutrition programs, and those community members who represent the social infrastructure that makes the local food economy thrive. Many of those who contributed to this bill will be testifying this morning and will be able to answer any questions you have.

Let me provide some background. New Hampshire's Farm to School program already nourishes some children, supports some local farmers, and strengthens the resiliency of our supply chain in some communities. The investment we are asking the state legislature to make will make it possible for schools and communities all over the state to take advantage of the benefits of local food for local schools.

















With this policy, we can improve the health and well-being of our children and the resiliency of our local food system. The Department of Education's Office of Nutrition Programs and Services would provide a monetary incentive to schools who choose to direct more of their 'per meal' cash reimbursement funds from the USDA toward purchases from New Hampshire and New England farmers. The state would encourage this channeling of federal funds into the local economy by awarding schools \$1 for every \$3 spent on food from New Hampshire and \$1 for every \$6 spent on food from the New England region. The goal is for our local schools to be purchasing at least 10 % of their food from local farms.

By offering every school a reimbursement of up to \$1200, we would be investing in our children's health. By redirecting 1.2 million federal dollars into our local economy, we ensure that we build food systems infrastructure that will make us resilient for the future. Our children's health and the health of our farms and farming communities are worth the \$600,000 investment from the state.

A robust farm-to-school program will help strengthen New Hampshire's agricultural sector and regional food security. It will also help New Hampshire students understand the regional agricultural, geographic, social, and cultural aspects of our food system in New Hampshire. I'd like to hand it over to Rep. Megan Murray to talk more about the educational and curricular possibilities local food in local schools provides.

















Billion \$\$\$\$ Disasters in USA for 20 Years - 1980-1999 ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/summary-stats

Billion-dollar events to affect the United States from 1980 to 1999 (CPI-Adjusted)

Disaster Type	Events	Events/Year	Percent Frequency	Total Costs	Percent of Total Costs	Cost/Event	Cost/Year	Deaths	Deaths/Year
 Drought	11	0.6	13.4%	\$127.7B 	26.4%	\$11.6B	\$6.4B	3,404 [†]	170 [†]
 Flooding	12	0.6	14.6%	\$79.7B 	16.5%	\$6.6B	\$4.0B	358	18
 Freeze	6	0.3	7.3%	\$27.0B 	5.6%	\$4.5B	\$1.4B	161	8
 Severe Storm	21	1.1	25.6%	\$43.8B 	9.1%	\$2.1B	\$2.2B	535	27
 Tropical Cyclone	18	0.9	22.0%	\$153.8B 	31.8%	\$8.5B	\$7.7B	497	25
 Wildfire	3	0.2	3.7%	\$10.9B 	2.3%	\$3.6B	\$0.5B	29	1
 Winter Storm	11	0.6	13.4%	\$40.3B 	8.3%	\$3.7B	\$2.0B	931	47
 All Disasters	82	4.1	100.0%	\$483.2B 	100.0%	\$5.9B	\$24.2B	5,915	296

Billion \$\$\$\$ Disasters in USA for Past 5 Years – 2017-2021 same link as above

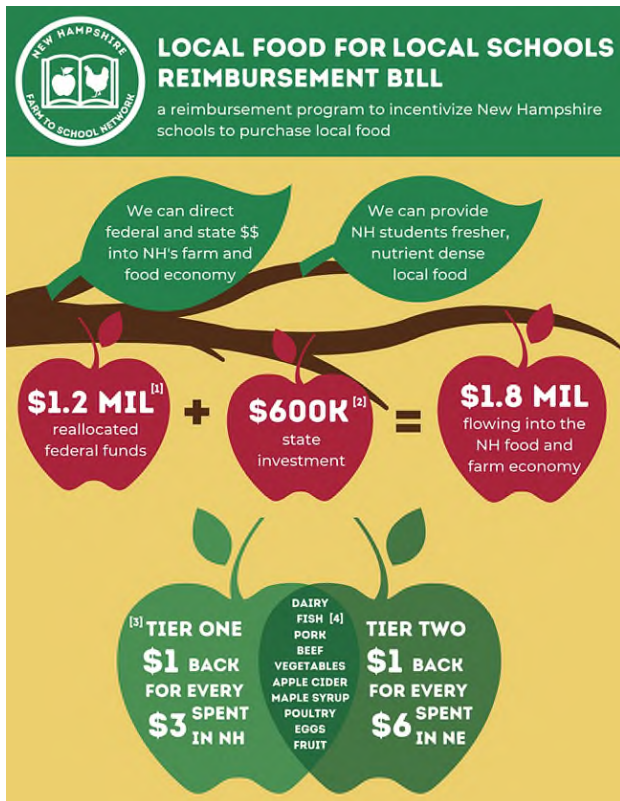
Billion-dollar events to affect the United States from 2017 to 2021 (CPI-Adjusted)

Disaster Type	Events	Events/Year	Percent Frequency	Total Costs	Percent of Total Costs	Cost/Event	Cost/Year	Deaths	Deaths/Year
 Drought	4	0.8	4.7%	\$19.8B 	2.7%	\$5.0B	\$4.0B	274 [†]	55 [†]
 Flooding	7	1.4	8.1%	\$27.9B 	3.8%	\$4.0B	\$5.6B	44	9
 Freeze	1	0.2	1.2%	\$1.1B 	0.1%	\$1.1B	\$0.2B	0	0
 Severe Storm	48	9.6	55.8%	\$103.0B 	13.9%	\$2.1B	\$20.6B	253	51
 Tropical Cyclone	18	3.6	20.9%	\$482.8B 	65.1%	\$26.8B	\$96.6B	3,474	695
 Wildfire	5	1.0	5.8%	\$79.8B 	10.8%	\$16.0B	\$16.0B	217	43
 Winter Storm	3	0.6	3.5%	\$27.7B 	3.7%	\$9.2B	\$5.5B	257	51
 All Disasters	86	17.2	100.0%	\$742.1B 	100.0%	\$8.6B	\$148.4B	4,519	904

[†]Deaths associated with drought are the result of heat waves. (Not all droughts are accompanied by extreme heat waves.)

Flooding events (river basin or urban flooding from excessive rainfall) are separate from inland flood damage caused by tropical cyclone

NH FEMA Bailouts 1979-2002 – 23 years = \$5 million 2003 – 2015 – 13 years = \$172 million
nhpr.org/post/new-hampshires-most-costly-natural-disasters#stream/0



Why We Need to Support HB 1657

The world is not the same as it was in the previous century. Extreme weather events, ongoing droughts precipitated by the past seven years being the seven hottest years on record, an overuse of both surface waters and aquifers, and now the ongoing pandemic have seriously impacted our nation's ability to produce the food it needs to support our growing population.

Thus food security is one of the principal adverse realities that our children will inherit from we adults. That is why I, along with the NH Northeast Organic Farmer's Association (nofanh.org) and many other organizations like The Farm to School Network, support the full implementation of this bill in this year.

HB 1657 – The Local Foods for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill will:

- 1. Promotes healthy eating habits by providing nutrient dense food for our state's school children, improving both their physical and mental health.**
- 2. Increase engagement in agricultural processes by helping to teach school staff and children, and through them their families and community members, how nutritious food is grown, processed and distributed. With the hope that many of them will want to become involved in personal and potentially commercial development of our state's food resources in order to achieve one of my (and many other members of NOFA-NH) goals, of producing 30% of NH food needs by 2030! (we currently only produce 3-5%)**
- 3. Financially support all our local farmers thus incentivizing them to not only continue to produce high quality local foods, but to potentially expand their operations, to once again hit that "30 by 30" target.**

So please pledge your support of HB 1657 – Your Children Will Thank You!

**Philip Browne, 103 Staniels Rd, Loudon, NH 03307 603-726-6587
Education and Outreach Cmte. For NOFA-NH, and CO-President of sos-steam.org**

To: Chairman Rick Ladd and Members of the Education Committee

From Jeanne Pierce, SNS

Date: January 12, 2022

Hello,

Thank you for your time and for allowing my statement to be read in my absence.

My name is Jeanne Pierce, and I am currently the Director of School Nutrition for the Exeter Region Cooperative School District and Exeter School District. I have served as a two-time Past President of the New Hampshire School Nutrition Association, Past Committee Chair of Public Policy Legislation for NH School Nutrition Association, and I have served other organizations, both at a national level and within our state, to support our children's needs within the school nutrition environment.

I am thrilled to support HB 1657-FN-A, the Farm to School Reimbursement Program. I understand many schools are currently making purchases from local farmers, but we are in direct competition with the retail sales which hinders our ability to increase the amount we would like to purchase or, for some schools, to make any purchases.

Currently, as I have in the past, I do make purchases from local farmers/vendors within New Hampshire and other New England States: beef, fish, fruit, maple syrup, vegetables, to name a few. The positive effects of this bill will allow schools to purchase more local goods within our region, help our local farmers and increase the relationships within the community. This bill would also allow many educational moments for our students to understand the importance of "where our food comes from," how far it may travel, and the direct impact it does have on our environment and economy. This is such a positive!

I speak for myself that our current supply chain issues show how important purchasing local is to having a food supply for my schools. I have spent hours looking for items that are grown, processed, and produced in our area.

Schools across New Hampshire have been working hard to develop relationships with farmers and to learn and understand how we both are able to support and educate our community on the importance of purchasing local goods. This bill will help in ways that will only be seen after it is passed and working in our state.

When funding stays local it grows the economy, supports our community, and shows how important keeping our local farms growing is to maintain a food source for all citizens within our state.

Thank you for your time.

Good morning

My name is Stacey Purslow, I coordinate the NH Farm to School program and work out of UNH's Sustainability Institute. I am not here to take a position on the bill but to provide some information about farm to school and farm to school in New Hampshire.

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites.

Farm to school works in three areas:

Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria, as a snack or in classroom taste-tests.

Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health and nutrition.

School gardens: Students engage in hands-on, experiential learning through gardening.

Farm to school programs exist in every state and are connected through the National Farm to School network. The USDA also has a farm to school program in their office of community food systems. Its also home to the farm to school grant program which over the years since its inception has brought half a million dollars to support various farm to school programs around the state. NH farm to school works closely with the Northeast regional office of the USDA and their farm to school staff person. NH Farm to School also participates in the Northeast Farm to School collaborative where we share and learn together and collaborate on projects across the region. We also have a NH school and youth garden network made up of partner organizations like UNH Cooperative Extension, NOFA NH, Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, Cornucopia Project in the Con-Val school district, US Fish and Wildlife, NH Ag in the Classroom and others. The farm to school network and the school garden network currently collaborated on developing a professional development webinar series for educators that begins next week that will cover topics such as local food procurement, composting in schools, hydroponics, garden and classroom connections and more.

Every few years the USDA collects farm to school census data from schools across the country. The last census was done in 2019. In NH, 41 school food authorities responded representing 172 schools and almost 67,000 students. 26 SFA's said they were serving local food in schools and the local food was being served in the National School Lunch program, the school breakfast program and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program as well as summer programs. 19 SFA's have edible school gardens but I know there are more based on my own survey work. The top local foods schools are purchasing are apples, lettuce, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, carrots and potatoes. Data collected by NH farm to school says half of the schools are buying directly from a farm and half are purchasing local foods through a distributor. In total schools are spending less than \$900,000 on local food purchases.

That was a quick overview of farm to school in NH. Happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

NH Farm to School Census Data:

<https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/census-results/states/nh>

Farm to School/School Garden Webinar Series:

<https://nhfarmtoschool.org/ourwork/2022-nh-farm-to-school-webinar-series/>

NH Farm to School

<https://nhfarmtoschool.org>

NH School and Youth Garden Network

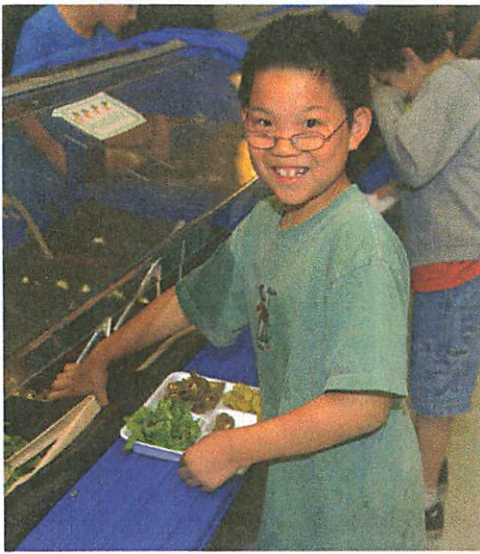
<https://www.nhschoolgardens.org>

Northeast Farm to School Collaborative

<https://www.northeastfarmtoschool.org>

National Farm to School Network

<https://www.farmtoschool.org>



THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

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NATIONAL
 FARM to SCHOOL
 NETWORK

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

The National Farm to School Network is as an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education into school and early care and education settings.

Updated April 2017

What is Farm to School?

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities. Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following three core elements:

Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria, as a snack or in classroom taste-tests.

Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health and nutrition.

School gardens: Students engage in hands-on, experiential learning through gardening.

Why Farm to School?



KIDS WIN

Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high-quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.



FARMERS WIN

Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.



COMMUNITIES WIN

Farm to school benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates new jobs and strengthens the local economy.

Benefits of Farm to School



Economic Development



Public Health



Education



Environment



Community Engagement

Economic Development

Job Creation and Economic Activity

- Creation and maintenance of jobs in the community and in the state; for every job created by school districts purchasing local foods, additional economic activity creates another 1.67 jobs.^{40,55}
- Increase in economic activity in the community and in the state.^{40,49,50,55}
- Each dollar invested in farm to school stimulates an additional \$0.60-\$2.16 of local economic activity, in one case resulting in \$1.4 million overall contribution to the state.⁴⁰
- Strengthen connections within the state's food economy.⁴⁰
- Increase in student meal participation from 3 percent to 16 percent (average +9 percent), generating increased revenue for schools through meal programs.^{8-9,20-21,23-25,36,41,49,58}
- Decrease in school meal program costs.^{41,48}

Farmer and Producer Income

- Increase in local procurement as farm to school programming matures, with documented local sourcing reaching up to 50 percent of all produce purchases in season.^{7-9,20,22-23,25,36-37,39}
- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales and establishment of a long-term revenue stream for individual farmers.^{7,9,20,22-23,36,39,55}
- Increase in market diversification and economic growth opportunities for farmers; positive relationships for farmers with school districts, parents and community members; farmers contracted to plant crops for schools; opportunities to explore processing and preservation methods for institutional markets; establishment of grower collaboratives or cooperatives to supply institutional markets.^{36-37, 68}



Public Health

Farm to school is a community-based strategy that includes a focus on creating a healthy school food environment.¹ Farm to school activities support development of healthy eating habits for children while improving family food security by boosting the quality of school meal programs.²⁻⁵

Student Nutrition Behaviors

- Improvement in early childhood and K-12 student health behaviors, including choosing healthier options at school meals, consuming more fruits and vegetables through farm to school meals and at home (+0.99 to +1.3 servings/day), consuming less unhealthy foods and sodas, reducing screen time and increasing physical activity.^{6-31,43-46,49,51,53,57,61-64,67,68}
- Increase in fruit and vegetable consumption among those with the lowest previous intake.⁵¹
- When schools offer school gardens, 44.2 percent of students eat more fruits and vegetables; when schools serve local food, 33.1 percent of students eat more fruits and vegetables.⁴⁶
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,30-33,45,47}

- Tripled amount of fruit and vegetable consumption when students participate in hands-on, food-based activities.⁴⁷
- Minimized diet-related diseases in childhood such as obesity and diabetes through the promotion of eating fresh fruits and vegetables, specifically for high-risk, low-income students.^{50,59,61}

Knowledge, Attitudes and Access

- Improvement in nutrition habits, environmental awareness and health-related knowledge.^{57,61}
- Increase in willingness to try and consumption of fruits and vegetables at an older age due to gardening at a young age.⁶⁰
- Increase in access to fruits and vegetables; increase in planning and preparing meals at home.^{57,61-64}
- Increase in ability and interest in incorporating healthier foods into family diets and guiding children in early childhood and K-12 to make healthier choices; positive changes in shopping patterns reflecting healthy and local foods.^{7,20,22,27,33,68}
- Increase among young children in asking their families to make healthier purchases.³³
- Improvement in household food security.⁴⁰
- Improvement in food service operations to support healthy outcomes, such as increased cafeteria offerings of fruits and vegetables; development of new seasonal recipes; changes in cafeteria waste management policies.^{8-9,21,23-25,36,37}

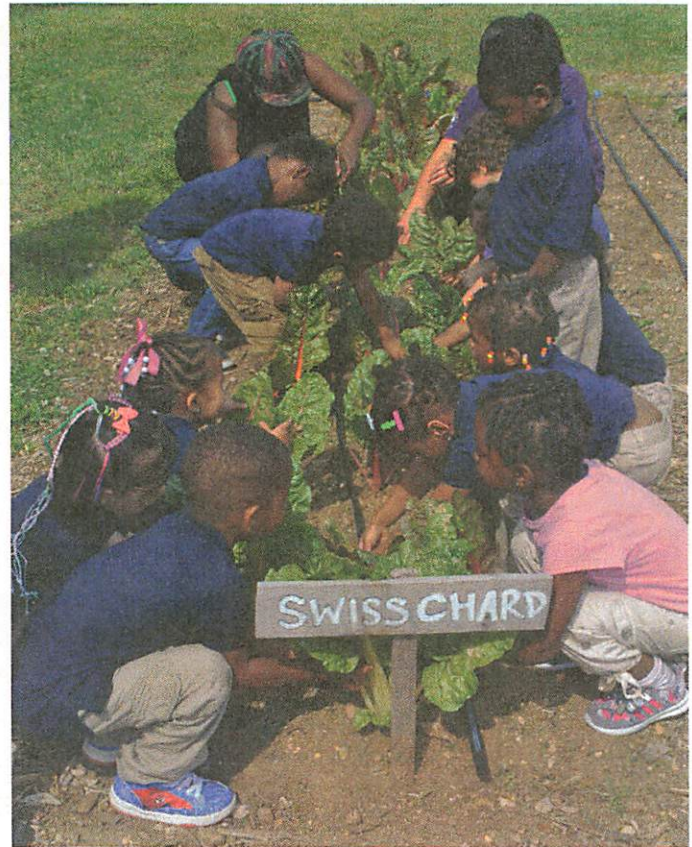
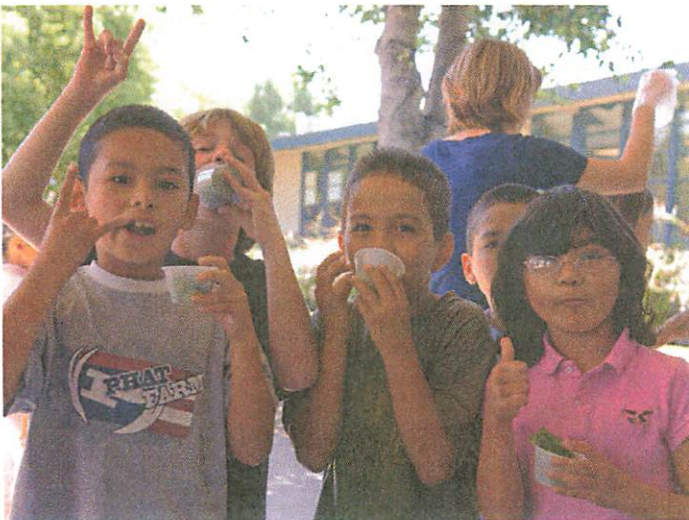
Education

Student Engagement and Academic Achievement

- Increase in knowledge and awareness about gardening, agriculture, healthy eating, local foods, nutrition, growing cycles, seasonality and other STEM concepts (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,26,31-33,42,44,48,49,61,68}
- Enhanced overall academic achievement in K-12 settings, including grades and test scores; increase in opportunities for physical activity and social and emotional growth; increase in school engagement.^{53,61,63,57}
- Provides children with an understanding of agriculture and the environment; provides children with opportunities for social and emotional growth; improves life skills, self-esteem, social skills and behavior.^{34-35,48,50,53,57,63}
- Increased opportunity for innovative teaching platforms for core subjects, such as science, math and language arts in early childhood and K-12 settings.⁶⁸
- Greater opportunity for necessary experiential and hands-on learning.^{50,69}
- Encourages low-income students and students of color to engage in food and environmental issues in their communities.⁵³

Educator and Parent Engagement

- Positive changes in teachers' diets and lifestyles; positive attitudes about integrating farm to school related information in curriculum; intention to implement farm to school activities in the classroom.^{7,20-22,30,52,66}
- Increase in knowledge among parents of young children about farmers' markets.³³
- Increase in parent acceptance of farm to school programs as their children demonstrate healthier behaviors such as increased fruit and vegetable consumption.⁵⁴
- Increased parent engagement in early childhood educational opportunities.⁶⁸
- Improvements in food service staff motivation and morale; increase in knowledge and interest in local food preparation and seasonal recipes; increase in interactions with teachers to strengthen classroom and cafeteria connections.^{7,22,38}



Environment

Food Waste

- Reduced food waste of local food, both on the production side as well as plate waste; decrease in overall food waste due to farm to school activities.^{41,56,58}




































Sustainability

- Reduced transportation-related environmental impacts, such as emissions of air pollutants.^{50,71}
- Support of environmentally sound, sustainable and socially just approaches to food production, processing, packaging, transportation and marketing.⁶⁸

Community Engagement

- Increase in community awareness about and interest in purchasing local foods and foods served in school cafeterias.^{7,22}
- Improved acceptance of healthier school meals among the community.⁵⁸
- Increase in opportunities to combat racial and economic inequities in the school food system.⁷⁰
- Increase in support from parents and community for healthier school meals.^{41,58}

Summary of Farm to School Benefits

Population	Reach	Benefits	
Students			
Fruit and vegetable consumption	Increased +0.99 to +1.3 servings per day	Public Health	
Physical activity	Reduced screen time and increased physical activity	Public Health	
Health	Minimized diet-related diseases such as childhood obesity and diabetes	Public Health	
Food system awareness	Increased knowledge about gardening, agriculture, healthy food, local food, seasonality	Public Health Education	 
Food choices	Willingness to try new and healthy food; choosing healthier options in the cafeteria and at home	Public Health Education Community Engagement	  
Academic achievement	Overall improvement in both grades and test scores (K-12)	Education	
Behavior	Improved life skills, self-esteem, social skills and other types personal growth	Education	
Schools			
Meal participation	Average increase of 9% (range 3% to 16%)	Economic Development Public Health	 
Meal cost	Lowers school meal program costs	Economic Development	
Local food sourcing	Reaching up to 50% of all produce purchases in season	Economic Development Environment	 
Cafeteria options	Increased offerings of fruits and vegetables; new seasonal recipes; new waste management policies	Public Health Environment	 
Food service staff	Improved morale; increased knowledge of local food	Education Community Engagement	 
Educators	Positive diet and lifestyle changes; greater intent to integrate farm to school activities in the classroom	Public Health Education Community Engagement	  
Learning opportunities	Greater opportunity for hands-on, active and experiential learning opportunities	Public Health Education	 
Farmers and Producers			
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development	
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development Community Engagement	 
Families and Community Members			
Local economy	\$0.60-\$2.16 economic activity generated for every \$1 spent	Economic Development	
Job creation	Each new farm to school job contributes to the creation of additional 1.67 jobs	Economic Development Community Engagement	 
Low-income students and students of color	Decreases health risks; encourages community engagement in environmental issues	Public Health Community Engagement	 
Parents and families	Increased food security and positive diet changes; increased student participation in meals at home	Public Health Community Engagement	 
Food waste and transportation	Decreased food waste; decreased air pollution	Environment	

House Education Committee

Megan Murray
Hillsborough District 22

HB 1657

Honorable Colleagues of the House Education Committee,

I come before you as an elected official, a parent, and an educator excited to support and share the importance of the passage of the “Local Food for Local Schools” bill. This bill presents enormous opportunities to connect learners, teachers, families and communities to the agricultural community. Nothing in this bill mandates or directs the Department of Education, districts or schools to implement any sort of specific criteria or assessment around food education, but what the bill does do is serve as a jumping off point for New Hampshire educational communities to make real-world, inquiry based connections and explorations to the local food system and communities in which student's live.

Increasing the amount of locally sourced nutritional food on a child's lunch tray serves as an opportunity to begin talking about farming practices, agricultural science, nutrition, geography and the regionality of where our food comes from and the importance of it¹.

Though as I said there is nothing prescriptive about what the teaching community MUST implement here, I do believe that our state has the opportunity to integrate learning that provides real-world scenarios to meet educational goals and standards of learners today. Farming is no longer just a process of tilling the ground, sowing seeds, and harvesting the crop - though at its basic tenet it is. Farming touches all sorts of topics like climate change, aquaculture, agriculture, hydroponics, and so many other state-of-the-art growing practices that require a high degree of science education behind them - I truly see the natural connection learning communities can make while simultaneously supporting nutrient dense sourcing of foods locally and regionally.

New Hampshire has an entire network of small farms and food producers throughout the state.² The farming community is vital to New Hampshire's food sourcing infrastructure and we have seen that a well diversified food infrastructure is vital to a healthy food economy in New Hampshire. There's no more appropriate time to implement such an incentive as now, other regional states have also done so within the last calendar year. Vermont being the most recent that I am aware of.

¹ <https://nhfarmtoschool.org/nh-farm-to-school-policy/>

² <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/new-hampshire-farm-products-map>

As a parent, this excites me because food is such a vital component to who we are in our families, in our towns, and in our communities. To know that a child might come home and say, " I tried a new vegetable today, we had Kohlrabi! Did you know it came from less that 4 miles away?" That excites me! I urge the passage of HB 1657 to support the need for strong local food sourcing initiatives within school communities!

To: Chairman Rick Ladd and Members of the Education Committee

From Jeanne Pierce, SNS

Date: January 12, 2022

Hello,

Thank you for your time and for allowing my statement to be read in my absence.

My name is Jeanne Pierce, and I am currently the Director of School Nutrition for the Exeter Region Cooperative School District and Exeter School District. I have served as a two-time Past President of the New Hampshire School Nutrition Association, Past Committee Chair of Public Policy Legislation for NH School Nutrition Association, and I have served other organizations, both at a national level and within our state, to support our children's needs within the school nutrition environment.

I am thrilled to support HB 1657-FN-A, the Farm to School Reimbursement Program. I understand many schools are currently making purchases from local farmers, but we are in direct competition with the retail sales which hinders our ability to increase the amount we would like to purchase or, for some schools, to make any purchases.

Currently, as I have in the past, I do make purchases from local farmers/vendors within New Hampshire and other New England States: beef, fish, fruit, maple syrup, vegetables, to name a few. The positive effects of this bill will allow schools to purchase more local goods within our region, help our local farmers and increase the relationships within the community. This bill would also allow many educational moments for our students to understand the importance of "where our food comes from," how far it may travel, and the direct impact it does have on our environment and economy. This is such a positive!

I speak for myself that our current supply chain issues show how important purchasing local is to having a food supply for my schools. I have spent hours looking for items that are grown, processed, and produced in our area.

Schools across New Hampshire have been working hard to develop relationships with farmers and to learn and understand how we both are able to support and educate our community on the importance of purchasing local goods. This bill will help in ways that will only be seen after it is passed and working in our state.

When funding stays local it grows the economy, supports our community, and shows how important keeping our local farms growing is to maintain a food source for all citizens within our state.

Thank you for your time.

My name is Chris Faro. I am the Vice President of Business Development for Fresh Picks Café. Fresh Picks Café is the largest operator of School Nutrition programs in New Hampshire, providing service to more than 37,000 students in 41 New Hampshire school districts. As a part of Café Services, based in Manchester, NH, we are one of the 30 largest Food Service Management Companies in the country. I am here today to express Fresh Picks Café's support for House Bill 1657.

Many states throughout the country have recently adopted, or are in the process of adopting, farm to school reimbursement programs. House Bill 1657 stands out among these for its clear, common-sense approach to the program. With its clear-cut requirements for qualifying, documenting, and reimbursing for local foods, the New Hampshire Farm to School Reimbursement Program avoids the pitfalls of convoluted guidelines and complex reporting structures that can be found in some other states' programs. The simplicity of this program ensures its success in achieving the goals of supporting and promoting local agriculture, and exposing students to local foods.

Over the past 20 years, Fresh Picks Café has executed numerous local food promotions and menus, facilitated "Meet Your Farmer" lunch and dinner events, and purchased directly from farms, farm cooperatives and local food aggregators. We have engaged in these activities because we understand that introducing students to local foods, farms and food producers is an important part of their educational experience and helps connect them to their community. These activities meet students where they are, acknowledging their generation's interest in sustainability and environmental awareness.

House Bill 1657 will incentivize and enable New Hampshire schools to further expand on these types of activities. It will support and promote local food growers and producers, and by increasing demand this program will incentivize food distributors to offer more local products, improving access for all institutional and retail food service operations. Most importantly, it will enrich and enhance the school dining experience of New Hampshire's students and increase their appreciation of all that New Hampshire has to offer.

HB 1657-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2158

08/05

HOUSE BILL ***1657-FN-A***

AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.

SPONSORS: Rep. Simpson, Rock. 36; Rep. Deshaies, Carr. 6; Rep. M. Murray, Hills. 22; Rep. Mullen, Hills. 7; Rep. Massimilla, Graf. 1; Rep. McGhee, Hills. 27; Rep. Allard, Merr. 21; Rep. Marsh, Carr. 8; Rep. Merchant, Sull. 4; Rep. Loughman, Rock. 21

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program and makes an appropriation therefor.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Subdivision; Farm to School Reimbursement Program. Amend RSA 189 by inserting
2 after section 73 the following new subdivision:

3 Farm to School Reimbursement Program

4 189:74 Farm to School Reimbursement Program.

5 I. The department of education shall establish a program to reimburse school administrative
6 units for money spent to purchase food from New Hampshire and New England farms. Only school
7 districts participating in the National School Lunch Program shall be eligible for reimbursement.

8 II. Food purchases shall fall into one of 2 tiers, depending on the origin of the food. Tier one
9 foods shall originate in New Hampshire. Tier 2 foods shall originate in Maine, Vermont,
10 Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut. Food purchases by school districts shall include food
11 hub purchases, direct purchases from farms, and conventional distributor purchases. The place of
12 origin shall be confirmed through self-attestation from the originating producer or any other means
13 required by the federal government or the department of education, office of nutrition programs and
14 services.

15 III. The department shall make rules under RSA 541-A relative to the specifications and
16 qualifications for eligible foods including, dairy, fish, pork, beef, poultry, eggs, fruits, vegetables,
17 cider, and maple syrup.

18 IV. All food purchased through the program shall comply with National School Lunch
19 Program guidelines.

20 V. School districts making a claim for reimbursement shall submit a copy of the invoices for
21 eligible purchases by the 15th of the month following their purchase. Products shall be reimbursed
22 at the following rates:

23 (a) Tier one products shall be reimbursed at 33.3 percent of cost.

24 (b) Tier 2 products shall be reimbursed at 16.6 percent of cost.

25 VI. School districts shall return money to the schools in proportion to how much the schools
26 paid to the school district for nutrition programs. No school shall receive total reimbursements over
27 \$1200 per year.

28 VII. The department shall develop an annual survey to be distributed to school districts in
29 order to collect data to improve the program.

30 2 Appropriation. The sum of \$600,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is hereby
31 appropriated to the department of education, office of nutrition programs and services, to initiate the

HB 1657-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 farm to school reimbursement program. \$40,000 of such appropriation shall be used to support
2 information technology related to the program. Any moneys not spent by the program shall not
3 lapse. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury
4 not otherwise appropriated.

5 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

**HB 1657-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing a New Hampshire farm to school reimbursement program.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$600,000	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes a New Hampshire Farm to school reimbursement program, to be administered by the Department of Education, and makes a \$600,000 general fund appropriation in FY 2023 to initiate the program (of which \$40,000 shall be used to support information technology related to the program).

The Department of Education indicates it would be required to establish a new program, for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) participating in National School Lunch Program, to reimburse School Administrative Units (not LEAs) for food purchased from New Hampshire and New England farms. Food purchased from New Hampshire farms ("Tier 1") would be reimbursed 33.3 percent of the cost, and food purchased from New England farms ("Tier 2") farms would be reimbursed at 16.6 percent of cost not to exceed a total school-level reimbursement of \$1,200 per year. The Department would be required to:

- Develop processes and procedures for reviewing claims, providing reimbursements, and procedures for self-attestation of food place of origin;
- Promulgate administrative rules regarding the specifications and qualifications for eligible foods;

- Design and execute improvements to the Office of Nutrition Programs and Service's food and nutrition information technology systems to accommodate an indeterminate number of new claims (funded by the bill at \$40,000);
- Provide training, technical assistance, and monitor food purchase compliance with National School Lunch Program guidelines and regulations; and
- Develop and administer an annual LEA survey.

The Department estimates these new responsibilities would require two additional full-time Program Specialist II positions (LG 21, Step 5). The cost for these positions including salary, benefits, office space and equipment is estimated at \$180,000 in FY 2023, \$180,000 in FY 2024, and \$188,000 in FY 2025.

The LEAs would select eligible vendors, procure eligible foods and document and submit claims for reimbursement. This would be a new fiscal and administrative responsibility for the SAUs, LEAs, and schools. Additionally, the handling and preparation of local unprocessed foods would require new food preparation skills for food service staff and extend the food preparation time. The Department states the impact on local expenditures cannot be determined.

This bill does not establish new full-time positions.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education