



Food Service Directors and
District Administration:
**Go Local - Pledge Your
Support for Farm to School!**

RI Farm to School Network 2022 Local Purchasing Pledge

October is [Farm to School Month](#) and we are so excited to celebrate and highlight all of the amazing, local foods that are used in RI school meals daily!, and we want to help you keep the momentum going all year long. Local purchasing for school meals is supported by the [RI Farm to School Network](#), state agencies, school districts, and producers in our state, as well as the USDA and other national groups like the National Farm to School Network.

There are many reasons to purchase, serve, and promote locally grown foods in your meals and snacks:

- RI and New England offer a bounty of produce, grains, meats and other products perfect for school meals.
- School food service providers have considerable purchasing power and are an important market that can bring opportunities to our local farmers, and keep dollars close to home.
- Introducing children to local healthy foods where they eat most often enables them to expand their food literacy, and empowers students to make informed choices and form lifelong healthy habits, improving their diets and lifestyle.
- Purchasing, serving, and promoting local foods is an investment in the future of your program! Stakeholders, including students, families, staff, and community members, value local foods in school meals.

Pledge your support and make a commitment to your students that your school/district will prioritize purchasing, serving, and promoting local products throughout the '22-'23 school year. Have an authorized representative [review, complete, and submit this form](#). Participating schools/districts will receive a Pledge Certificate from RI Farm to School Network that can be displayed in your school(s) to remind everyone of your commitment(s) to bringing fresh, local foods to your students on a daily basis.



You may choose which pledge to make:

A

Purchasing, serving, and promoting at least one locally sourced fruit, vegetable, grain, or protein TWICE per month for each month during the '22-'23 school year, above and beyond standard menuing of local items

B

Increasing our local purchasing budget for the '22-'23 school year as compared to the '18-'19 school year

C

Allocating a portion of our supplemental \$0.40 per meal reimbursement (available under the Keep Kids Fed Act) to NEW local purchases

Kids Win | Farmers Win | Communities Win!