



FARM TO SCHOOL IN THE SENATE

On March 16, 2010,
Senator Patrick Leahy (VT)
introduced S. 3123:
**Growing Farm to School
Programs Act**, a bill
requesting \$50 million
in mandatory funding for
farm to school programs.

WHAT DOES S. 3123 DO?

The **Growing Farm to School Programs Act (S. 3123)** would establish a competitive grant and technical assistance program to increase the use of local foods from small and medium sized farms in schools. The legislation would provide \$50 million in mandatory funding for the duration of the program and require that grant recipients provide a local match to ensure serious commitment to the project.

This competitive grant program is designed to:

- »» Improve the nutritional health and well being of children;
- »» Support experiential nutrition education activities;
- »» Procure local foods from small and medium-sized farms;
- »» Increase farm income by facilitating farmers' access to institutional markets including schools; and
- »» Develop a sustained commitment to farm to school programs in the community

WHY FARM TO SCHOOL??



HEALTH: Kids Win
All kids deserve access to nutritious, high quality food. One-third of U.S. children are obese or overweight, and only 2% of children meet the Food Guide Pyramid daily serving recommendations. Schools operating a Farm to School program have shown increases in children's participation in the school meals program and consumption of fruits and vegetables.



AGRICULTURE: Farmers Win
Farm to School supports farming families by increasing market opportunities for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers. Farm to School programs can open up the expansive school food market, estimated at more than \$12 billion a year to local farmers.



ECONOMY: Communities Win
Farm to School strengthens the community. Farm to School programs create opportunities for developing meaningful community relationships between schools, parents, and local farmers. For every dollar spent on local foods in schools, one to three dollars circulate in the economy.

TAKE ACTION

Call or Email your Senator
and ask them to co-sponsor
S. 3123 at 202.225.3121!

www.farmtoschool.org

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Directly call your senators and ask that they cosponsor S. 3123

MAKE A CALL. You can obtain your Senator's name and direct number by going to Congress.org and typing in your zip code. Or, you can also call the Capitol Switchboard, provide your Senator's name and be directly connected to their office: 202.225.3121. Once connected to your Senator's office ask to speak to the legislative aide that works on child nutrition.

THE MESSAGE IS SIMPLE. "I am a constituent of _____ and I am calling to ask him/her to co-sponsor Senator Patrick Leahy's "Growing Farm to School Programs Act" (S.3123) which will provide \$50 million in mandatory funding for Farm to School Programs as part of the Child Nutrition Act reauthorization."

Distribute our action alerts through relevant listservs or to your fellow advocates

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR CHILD NUTRITION ACTION ALERTS.

Visit www.foodsecurity.org and enter your email address on the main page to receive our policy updates and issue specific action alerts.

Organize a sign-on letter to your Congressional delegation from groups in your state

CONTACT US FOR TEMPLATES. Never underestimate the power you have as a constituent. If you can show that a large contingency of voters in your area support this legislation, the more likely it is that your senator will sign on in support.

Invite your member on a Farm to School site visit

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL RECESS. Members love to hear about what's going on in their district, better yet, they need to experience it firsthand! Visit www.foodsecurity.org/policy_CNR_F2S for tips on planning a site visit.

Write an op-ed or send a letter to the editor

TELL YOUR STORY. Contact your local media to share your support for Farm to School. Visit www.farmtoschool.org/policies to find sample language and statistics.



QUESTIONS?

Contact Megan Lott
megan@foodsecurity.org
202.543.8602

www.farmtoschool.org

National Farm to School Network