



Vermont Farm To School Outcomes

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Vermont Farm to School Grants Program

RBA Indicator Impacted: Percentage of school implementing Farm to School programming

- **112 grants** since 2007
- **138 schools** impacted
- **40,000 students** reached
- **\$1,000,300** state funds invested in schools, **\$500,000 additional funds leveraged**
- In the last four years, only **43% of demand** from schools has been met

Growing Vermont's Economy

RBA Indicators Impacted: Gross domestic product; rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents; increase in gross working lands income over previous year for grantees of Working Lands Program; percent of total farm sales; percent of fruit and vegetable farms by sales outlet.

- Every **\$1.00 spent** by VT schools on local foods **adds \$1.60 to the local economy**
- **\$1.4 million contributed** to Vermont's economy from local food purchasing by schools just in 2013-14
- If schools double their local purchasing, \$2.1 million will be contributed to the VT economy, and the Agency of Agriculture estimates that state institutions are a **potential \$11 million market for local foods**
- VT's food system added over **6,000 net new jobs** and **779 new businesses**, and overall **gross sales increased from \$7.6 to \$10 billion (32%)** between 2009-2015

Promoting Nutrition

RBA Indicators Impacted: People of all ages should eat at least five fruits and vegetables a day; reduce the number of Vermonters who are obese; percentage of adolescents eating fruits and vegetables

- Vermont Schools with Farm to School programs have reported **twice the national average in vegetable consumption**
- Students who know a farmer or grow their own food eat more fruits and vegetables

Fighting Hunger

RBA Indicator Impacted: percentage of food insecure households

- **Childhood hunger rates declined 37%** from 2010-2015; a major contributor is the success of school nutrition programs
- **65 Vermont schools** are now providing **universal breakfast** and lunch to over **13,500 students**
- **Five additional schools are preparing to make this move**, thanks to funding expansion for Farm to School Grants Program in the last legislative session
- **37 Vermont schools** are moving breakfast into the school day, and some have seen **breakfast participation increases as high as 642%**
- **83% more summer meals** were eaten by children at **nearly twice as many sites** throughout Vermont in 2015, as compared to 2010
- **In schools with universal meals**, nurses report improved academic performance and improved focus in class, declines in absenteeism, **declines in school nurse visits as high as 72%, and declines in behavioral referrals of at least 10%**