SB 420 - The Louisiana Farm to School Program Act

Our aim is for every student, school and district in Louisiana to have access to the three main components of impactful farm to school programming: experiential learning in the classroom, on-site gardening, and local food in the cafeteria.

If passed, the Louisiana Farm to School Program Act will provide essential infrastructural support for farm to school initiatives, encouraging the continued growth of our vibrant statewide movement to the benefit of students, farmers and communities across Louisiana.

Adoption of the Louisiana Farm to School Program Act would accomplish the following goals:

- **Encourage connection between schools and local farmers** through the use of a farm and crop inventory across the state, by region;
- **Simplify the purchasing process between schools and farmers** by disseminating specific farm to school guidelines to clarify contracting, school food safety and liability insurance requirements;
- **Support efforts to ensure that schools have the proper equipment** to prepare and process fresh food onsite;
- **Integrate farm to school in the classroom** through hands-on activities related to agriculture, food, health, and nutrition such as farm visits, cooking demonstrations, taste tests, and school gardening and compost programs; and
- **Develop a Louisiana Farm to School Handbook** to provide guidance and resources to schools and farmers for farm to school program success.

www.louisianafarmtoschool.org
Why The Louisiana Farm to School Program Act Matters

Across the state, educators, food service professionals and growers are collaborating around farm to school to increase equity, improve health outcomes for students, and advance economic opportunities for farmers. The Louisiana Farm to School Program Act will support the continued growth of Louisiana’s farm to school movement. 33% of Louisiana school districts are participating in farm to school programming, impacting roughly 288,083 students. Already, $10,951,500 has been invested into local economies through farm to school activities.*

Last year, Louisiana joined 44 other states and the District of Columbia in supporting farm to school when the Louisiana State Legislature unanimously passed SB 184, the Small Purchase Threshold Bill, and HB 761, The Urban Ag Inventive Zone Bill. Both bills work to support local farmers and increase access to local food for schools and communities. The Louisiana Farm to School Program Act builds on the momentum of this success. By establishing a framework for a sustainable statewide farm to school program, SB 420, with support from the Louisiana Farm to School Alliance, connects and empowers farmers, schools, and communities across the state.

About Farm to School Louisiana

F2S LA works to improve health and economic outcomes for the state of Louisiana by strengthening the connection communities have with fresh local food.

About Louisiana Farm to School Alliance

The Louisiana Farm to School Alliance is a project of Farm to School Louisiana and partners with National Farm to School Network. We are a statewide network of organizations working in food, farming, nutrition and education to share resources and support for farm to school and build a dialogue for statewide programming. In March 2015, the Louisiana Farm to School Alliance partnered with the National Farm to School Network to launch Seed Change in Louisiana. Seed Change uses a multi-pronged F2S strategy, including a mini-grant program, training and technical assistance, and statewide networking, that focuses on creating healthy food environments in schools through increasing both the amount of fresh, local food served to students and through educational activities that help children develop healthy eating habits and knowledge.

To learn more:
The Louisiana Farm to School Program Act
The 2015 USDA Farm to School Census
“New State Laws Boost Farm to School in Louisiana”
Seed Change
Louisiana Farm to School Alliance

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