



## Investing Locally to Improve School Nutrition

Nutritious school meals are a vital source of nutrition for millions of children nationwide, giving them the fuel they need to grow, learn, and thrive. In addition to traditional school meal funding sources, USDA has provided extra financial support for schools since 2021, helping ensure they have the necessary resources to operate successful school meal programs. Some of this extra funding has allowed schools to buy local, unprocessed foods, helping area producers.



### \$13M+

Invested in **extra financial support since 2021** to help schools run successful meal programs



### About 30M

**Kids served daily** with school meals, which increasingly are prepared with local and unprocessed foods



### Nearly \$4.8B

Invested by USDA so that school lunch programs can **purchase domestic, unprocessed foods**



### Nearly \$700M

Used **to procure local and regionally sourced foods** largely from historically underserved producers



## 74% of schools served

local foods during the 2022-2023 school year, according to the USDA Farm to School Census, which also found that:



- School districts nationwide **spent about \$1.8 billion on local foods**, or about 16% of their total food spending.
- Participation in **farm-to-school activities grew 14%** since the last census in 2019.
- School districts where many students qualify for free or reduced-price meals **participate in farm-to-school programs at the same rate as other districts.**