

# Farm to School in the Healthy Schools Act

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Working to get more healthy, local foods into  
Washington, DC schools

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# The DC Farm to School Network

- Coordinator (Andrea)
- Core volunteers
- Broader coalition of chefs, farmers, non-profits, advocates, parents, teachers, school administrators, food service, etc.

# The DC Farm to School Network

- Educational meetings and calls
- Website, newsletter, email list
- Technical assistance (connecting the dots)
- School Food FOCUS Learning Lab
- Foodtrader.org
- DC Farm to School Workshop for food service in March
- Policy!

# School Food in DC

USDA

City Council

OSSE

DCPS

Public Charter  
Schools

Chartwells

Food Service  
Management  
Companies

# The Healthy Schools Act

- Introduced in early December by Councilmembers Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3) and Vincent Gray (D-At Large)
- Designed to:
  - 1) raise school nutrition standards;
  - 2) establish a farm to school program;
  - 3) increase physical activity;
  - 4) “green” public schools in the District;
  - 5) improve school wellness and allergies; and
  - 6) create a “Healthy Youth and Schools” commission.

## What are the most important Farm to School things in the bill?

- Healthy, local foods in school meals
- Funding for healthy, local foods in school meals
- Disclosure of where school food comes from
- Farm to School education and promotion
- Grants for Farm to School programs
- School gardens

## Healthy, local foods in school meals

Public schools shall serve locally-grown, locally-processed and minimally-processed foods from farmers engaged in sustainable practices whenever possible.

## Funding for healthy, local foods in school meals

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education shall provide an extra X cents reimbursement when the foods served in a meal are locally-grown, locally-processed, and minimally-processed, and are from growers engaged in sustainable practices.

## Disclosure of where school food comes from

Public schools shall require food service providers to identify, disclose and certify where foods served in schools are grown and processed, and whether growers are engaged in sustainable practices.

## Farm to School education and promotion

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education shall partner...to develop programs to promote the economic, environmental and nutritional benefits of purchasing and eating locally-grown and minimally-processed foods from growers engaged in sustainable practices.

(At least one special farm to school event per year)

# Grants for Farm to School Programs

...Make grants available through a competitive process to individuals, public schools, or organizations to enable them to develop innovative solutions to the logistical challenges of operating a farm-to-school program in the District.

## School Gardens (briefly)

- Establishes School Gardens Program in OSSE
- Develop plan to expand gardens
- Training and technical assistance
- Curricula
- Competitive garden grants
- Produce served in cafeterias!

## Bill Timeline

- Thursday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – Working Group meeting
- Tuesday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 11AM - Public Hearing
- Markups, vote by Committee on Government Operations and the Environment
- Markups, vote by Committee of the Whole
- Markups, vote by Council, Mayor
- Hope to be enacted by August 2010

## How can you get involved?

- Read the bill, educate yourself and others
- Read the commentary ([www.dcfarmtoschool.org](http://www.dcfarmtoschool.org))
- Local Restaurants for Local Kids – Fri. Jan. 22nd
- Testify Tues. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 11AM - Public Hearing
- Sign-on letter
- Pressure your Councilmember
- Spread the word!

# Tools and Resources

- Our website – [www.dcfarmentoschool.org](http://www.dcfarmentoschool.org)
- One-pager about the bill (as it relates to farm to school)
- National Farm to School Network website – [www.farmentoschool.org](http://www.farmentoschool.org)
- National policy – One Tray Campaign ([onetray.org](http://onetray.org)),  
Community Food Security Coalition ([foodsecurity.org](http://foodsecurity.org))