

# The Keystone Fresh Act: **Fact Sheet**

**HB 2420**  
**will...**

...increase the quantity and variety of Pennsylvania products served in school meals  
&  
establish vital resources for Pennsylvania's family farmers to participate in the school food market.

**The Opportunity:** More than 157 million lunches are served in PA schools annually making them one of the largest potential markets for PA producers. Despite having a federal child nutrition budget of more than \$729 million per year, PA schools self-report that they spend **less than 2% of those funds on PA grown foods.**<sup>1</sup>

## **The Keystone Fresh Act will provide:**

- Grants to offset the cost of purchasing local foods for school meals and necessary equipment to process whole foods;
- Technical assistance and funds for equipment and marketing to support PA producers' ability to meet the needs of school meal standards; and
- Technical assistance to support schools with cooking techniques to utilize unprocessed products in school meals.

## **A Win-Win-Win Scenario**



### **Economic Win**

Every \$1 spent on local foods for school meals generates \$1.4 for local economies.<sup>2</sup>



### **Public Health Win**

Purchasing, promoting and serving local foods in school meals has led to students eating 37% more vegetables and 11% more fruit.<sup>3</sup>



### **Community Win**

Connecting farmers back to their communities and students to local agriculture supports local food systems and increases food security

## **Learn More:**

- [The Keystone Fresh Act FAQ](#)
- [Supporters of the Keystone Fresh Act](#)
- [PA Department of Education Investigative Report on Local Food Purchasing Incentives](#)
- For additional info visit [pafarmtoschool.org/keystone-fresh-act](http://pafarmtoschool.org/keystone-fresh-act) or contact Sam Gibb [sgibb@thefoodtrust.org](mailto:sgibb@thefoodtrust.org)



The Pennsylvania Farm to School Network is coordinated by The Food Trust and includes a Leadership Team of people representing a variety of state agencies, organizations and associations working with people actively engaged in farm to school activities in PA.

<sup>1</sup> [USDA 2019 Farm to School Census and Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition, Child Nutrition Programs](#)  
<sup>2</sup> [Colorado Department of Education Legislative Reports](#)  
<sup>3</sup> [Mishra, S. K., Khanal, A. R., & Collins, W. J. \(2022\). Farm-to-School programmes, benefits, health outcomes and barriers: A structured literature review. Health Education Journal, 81\(7\), 781-792.](#)