

HB 256

Utah Farm to School Bill

What is farm to school?

Farm to school, or farm to fork as we sometimes call it, is a way to connect cafeterias, classrooms, and communities through local food. The core elements of farm to school are school gardens, local food procurement, and agriculture education.

Why is farm to school important?

Farm to school is a powerful tool to strengthen our local food economy. Federal Child Nutrition Programs across Utah spend close to \$100 million per year on food, and currently most of that money goes out of state. Farm to school programs help keep food dollars close to home, introduce kids to the value of agriculture, provide a steady market for small and medium-sized farms, and increase access to fresh, healthy food. **Farm to school is a win for farmers, kids, and communities.**

What does HB 256 do?

- Creates farm to school staff positions at USBE, UDOH, and UDAF. USBE is currently the only state agency that dedicates staff time to farm to school activities.
- Creates a Farm to School Commission, staffed by these three agencies. The Farm to School Commission will oversee a statewide strategic plan for farm to school in Utah, ensure communication and coordination between stakeholders, and host a resource library/knowledge base for Utah farm to school.

Why do we need HB 256?

Farm to school requires cross-sector collaboration, which in turn requires people who can dedicate time to relationship building and communication. Data from the National Farm to School Network shows that State Agency farm to school positions are correlated with higher district participation in farm to school activities.

The Farm to School Commission will help transform individual activities into a cohesive movement that strengthens our local food economy.



Corn husking competition in Box Elder School District, 2019



[SCHOOLS.UTAH.GOV/CNP](https://schools.utah.gov/cnp)

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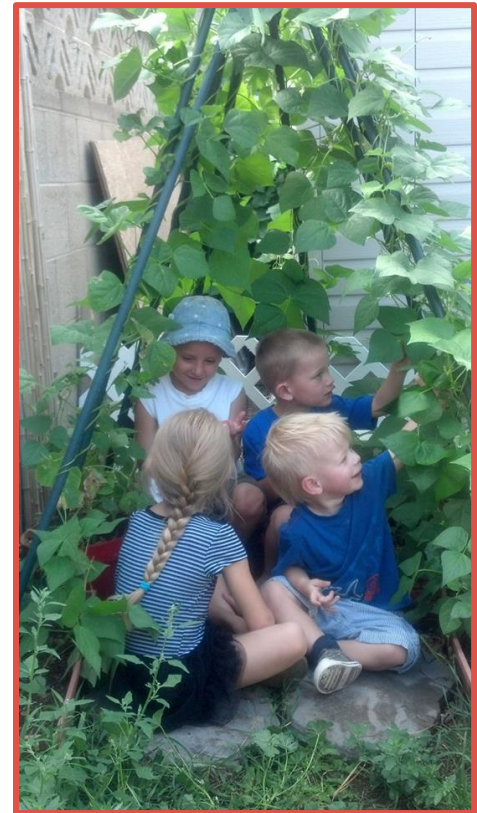




Top: Culinary students from Merit College Prep celebrating a successful farm to school day, 2019.

Right: Daycare students enjoying a bean tipi, 2016.

Bottom: Farm to summer celebration in Tooele School District, 2019.



- Oversee statewide farm to school strategic plan.
- Host knowledge/resource hub.
- Ensure communication and coordination between stakeholders.



- Provide training and technical assistance to LEAs, childcare centers, and school nutrition programs.
- Support menu innovations and curriculum integration.



- Provide training and technical assistance to Utah food producers.
- Support innovative processing and distribution solutions.



- Provide training and technical assistance to local health departments.
- Expand the reach of farm to school beyond K-12, including Universities and other institutions.