2026 NEW JERSEY COMMITMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY

NJ Farm to School Program

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Through the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Program, schools throughout New Jersey are encouraged to incorporate New Jersey-grown and produced foods into school meals while connecting students with local agriculture and the food system. The program supports food security by encouraging greater access to fresh, locally grown foods and strengthening connections between schools, local agriculture, and the communities they serve. It also helps schools understand the benefits and opportunities associated with purchasing from New Jersey farmers and agricultural businesses.

The Farm to School Program also supports agricultural literacy and hands-on learning opportunities that help students understand how food is grown and produced and the important role agriculture plays in New Jersey's communities and food system. Resources and educational opportunities may include school gardens, growing activities, classroom lessons, and other experiences that connect agriculture to subjects such as science, math, health and nutrition, and social studies. These experiences help students develop knowledge and appreciation of agriculture while building connections between food, farms, health, and the community.

THIS PROGRAM SUPPORTS:

02 FOCUS AREA 2

Expand Community-Based Food Infrastructure and Market Channel Creation for Enhanced Ongoing Food Access, Utilization, and Availability

STRATEGY 2.3 MARKET CHANNEL CREATION

Leverage federal, state, institutional, and charitable food purchasing dollars to support farmers and regional supply chains, expand local procurement opportunities, and build long-term demand for a variety of New Jersey-grown foods.

Office of the Food Security Advocate

Key Program Facts

PROGRAM DATES:
2010-Ongoing

COUNTY(S) SERVED:
Statewide

PARTNERS:
Local School Districts; Participating Farms or Farmers; USDA Food and Nutrition Administration; NJ Department of Education; Rutgers Cooperative Extension; Next Generation Farmer Program

TOP TACTICS:
Farmer support, sustainable agriculture, or local food procurement initiatives; Food and nutrition education