

HISTORY & EVOLUTION

2006

Local Produce Fund (LPF) established — but never funded — to reimburse schools \$1 for every \$3 spent on local foods

2019 Legislative Session

Full Plates advocates for and passes a bill to fund LPF

2019-20 School Year

Local Produce Fund being underutilized: \$38,438 reimbursed to only 30 school nutrition programs

Fall 2020

Full Plates conducts a survey of school nutrition programs to learn about the fund's limitations

2021 Legislative Session

Building on survey learnings, Full Plates introduces and helps pass the Local Foods Fund (LFF) to replace and expand Local Produce Fund

2021-22 School Year

\$66,979 in LFF funds reimbursed to 60 school nutrition programs in just 4 months (September-December)!

THE NEW LOCAL FOODS FUND

	Local Produce Fund	Local Foods Fund
Type of food	Produce only	Produce, protein, grains, value-added dairy
Annual reimbursement cap per district	\$2,000 - \$2,500	\$5,000 - \$5,500
Sourcing	Direct producers only	Direct producers, processors of local products, and distributors

IMPACT

"Changes to the Local Foods Fund have resulted in **significantly more participation** across the state this school year. We have seen partnerships form between vegetable and livestock farmers, creameries, fishermen, and even beekeepers! From rolled oats to shaved steak, Maine schools have taken advantage of the expanded Fund both in diversity of food bought and dollars spent. Despite challenges with supply chain availability and other pandemic-related hurdles, Maine schools have continued to support farmers and producers and offer students even more healthy, local food."

— Robin Kerber, Maine DOE Farm and Sea to School Coordinator

"I love the new steak & cheese subs we have at lunch and my mom told me **the beef is actually from Maine!**"

— Jaxson Cooney, Loranger Memorial School 6th grader

"The Local Foods Fund has been **instrumental in getting fresh, local ingredients** onto the trays of students. Now that we can order these items directly from our food vendors, it makes it exponentially easier to receive farm fresh items every single week."

— Caroline Trinder, RSU 23 Food and Nutrition Services Director

"Hungry kids can't learn and grow to their full potential so we need to do all we can to make sure the meals served at school are filling and nutritious. A big part of this is helping schools connect with local farms and producers, to get fresh food on cafeteria trays. **This is a big win for schools, students and local food producers and growers.**

I can't wait to see how much more good this program can do for Maine.

— Senator Eloise Vitelli, lead sponsor of LFF bill