

The Farm to School Collaborative

SUPPORTING THE COMMON GOALS OF HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY FARMS AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Bills in Support of Farm to School Programs

All of the following bills support Farm to School Programs by providing tools to connect school food service providers with producers in their areas to source local food efficiently and cost effectively. More specifically the following bills all:

- Create a national USDA competitive matching grant program, renewable for up to two years, to support planning, implementation, training, and technical assistance grants for communities to implement Farm to School Programs.
- Consider regional and urban-rural balance in project selection, and prioritize applications that serve institutions with a high proportion of children eligible for free and reduce price lunches, have the potential for long-term sustainability, and include collaboration with producer groups.
- Require The Secretary to provide technical assistance and information to further the purposes of this Program.

There are no significant language or policy differences between the Farm to School program sections in each of the bills below, however, there are significant differences in how the program is funded.

Rep. Rush Holt's (NJ-12) Bill Includes:

- This is a stand-alone Farm to School bill including mandatory funding
- \$50 Million (over 5 years) in Mandatory Funding for a competitive grant program for Farm to School Projects

The Children's Fruit and Vegetable Act of 2009: Sponsored by Rep. Sam Farr (CA-17)

- This bill includes Farm to School with mandatory funding
- Other mandatory programs are also included in this bill:
 - \$100 Million for School Kitchen Equipment
 - \$20 Million (over 2 years) for School Salad Bars
 - \$50 Million (over 5 years) for a competitive grant program for Farm to School Projects
- This bill also directs the Secretary to promulgate a final rule to update the nutrition standards and meal requirements for School Meal programs no later than September 2011

The National Farm to School Act: Sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04), Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-03), and Rep. Tom Latham (IA-04)

- This bill includes Farm to School with discretionary funding as well as directions to USDA to identify existing USDA programs that can be used to facilitate participation of small and medium-sized farmers, ranchers and fisherman in farm-to-school programs
- This bill also authorizes the Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, and Health and Human Services to establish a national web-based Farm to School exchange to facilitate sharing of information, best practices, research and data on Farm to School Programs

Convened by:

National Farm to School Network | School Food FOCUS | Community Food Security Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition | Wallace Center at Winrock International