



2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 86

October 31, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives SHELTON, CONSIDINE, ANDRACA, BARE, C. ANDERSON, CABRERA, CONLEY, DRAKE, EMERSON, HONG, HURD, JACOBSON, JOERS, MELOTIK, MOORE OMOKUNDE, OHNSTAD, ORTIZ-VELEZ, PALMERI, RATCLIFF, SCHMIDT, SHANKLAND, SNODGRASS, STUBBS, SUBECK and CLANCY, cosponsored by Senators PFAFF, AGARD, CARPENTER, HESSELBEIN, LARSON, ROYS, SMITH and SPREITZER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** designating October 2023 as Wisconsin Farm to School Month.

2 Whereas, Farm to School programs of varying scale operate in over 370 schools
3 across Wisconsin; and

4 Whereas, Farm to School programs connect schools and local farms in order to
5 do the following:

- 6 • Serve fresh, healthy food from local food producers to Wisconsin students;
- 7 • Bring local food sourcing and agricultural education into school food systems;
- 8 • Provide educational opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons,
9 and farm field trips;
- 10 • Empower children and their families to make informed food choices;
- 11 • Strengthen the local economy and contribute to vibrant communities;
- 12 • Support local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen; and

13 Whereas, Farm to School programs include experiential, student-centered
14 education components that can lead to permanent improvements in the diets and
15 nutritional habits of children, both in school and at home; and

1 Whereas, Farm to School programs facilitate the purchase of local fresh food for
2 school meals; and

3 Whereas, Farm to School programs can benefit small and mid-sized agricultural
4 producers and growers by providing access to consistent markets; and

5 Whereas, Farm to School programs can be particularly important for beginning
6 or disadvantaged farmers, as schools provide a consistent and secure customer base;
7 and

8 Whereas, Farm to School programs can benefit local economies and create
9 vibrant communities; and

10 Whereas, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that
11 only 7 percent of children consume the recommended amount of vegetables; and

12 Whereas, communities with high levels of poverty have less access to fresh
13 fruits and vegetables than higher-income communities; and

14 Whereas, the increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is one of six
15 major strategies to prevent and control obesity, according to the Centers for Disease
16 Control and Prevention; and

17 Whereas, studies have demonstrated that children in schools with an active
18 Farm to School program increase their average consumption of fresh fruits and
19 vegetables by one or more servings per day; and

20 Whereas, Farm to School programs are popular among children, can increase
21 interest in school meal programs, and can decrease food waste; and

22 Whereas, October 2023 would be an appropriate month to designate as
23 Wisconsin Farm to School Month; now, therefore, be it

1 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
2 State Legislature designates October 2023 as Wisconsin Farm to School Month; and,
3 be it further

4 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin State Legislature does all of the following:

- 5 • Recognizes support for policy improvements to Farm to School initiatives in
6 child nutrition programs;
- 7 • Encourages schools and local educational agencies to use local farm products
8 in meals; and
- 9 • Encourages schools, farmers and farm groups, local businesses, nonprofit
10 institutions, churches, cities, state governments, and other local groups to raise
11 awareness of Farm to School efforts in their communities.

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(END)