



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

November 29, 2013

2013-R-0421

## CONNECTICUT FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

By: Janet L. Kaminski Leduc, Senior Legislative Attorney

You asked for a summary of Connecticut's law establishing the farm-to-school program.

Public Act [06-135](#) (§ 21) established Connecticut's farm-to-school program as a statewide program designed to encourage the use of Connecticut-grown farm products in school cafeterias. The law requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg), in consultation with the state Department of Education (SDE), to run the program to promote and facilitate the sale of Connecticut-grown farm products by farms to school districts, individual schools, and other educational institutions under SDE's jurisdiction ([CGS § 22-38d](#)).

Through the program, DoAg must:

1. encourage and solicit Connecticut farmers to sell their products to the districts, schools, and other educational institutions;
2. develop and regularly update a database of farmers interested in selling their products to Connecticut schools, including the types and amounts of products they want to sell;
3. in consultation with SDE, facilitate purchases from local farmers by the districts, schools, and other educational institutions; and

4. provide outreach and guidance to farmers on the value of, and procedure for, selling their products to interested districts, schools, and other educational institutions.

The law requires SDE to:

1. encourage and solicit districts, schools, and educational institutions to purchase Connecticut-grown farm products;
2. provide outreach, guidance, and training to districts, parent and teacher organizations, schools, and school food service directors on the value of, and procedure for, purchasing these products and incorporating them into their regular menus;
3. in consultation with DoAg, arrange for local, regional, and statewide events where potential purchasers and farmers can interact; and
4. arrange for interaction between students and farmers, including field trips to farms and farmer presentations at schools.

The law also requires SDE to establish the Connecticut-Grown for Connecticut Kids Week to promote Connecticut agriculture and foods to children through school meal and classroom programs and at farms, farmers' markets, and other community locations. The week-long promotional event must be (1) established in consultation with DoAg, school food service directors, and interested farming organizations and (2) held every year in late September or early October.

For further information about the program, see DoAg's website, which includes lists of participating schools and farmers, promotional material, and agency contact information (<http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=2225&q=299424>). SDE also maintains a farm-to-school program website (<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=322568>).

JKL:ts