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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Melissa Hurtado, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

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<b>Bill No:</b>	AB 675	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	07/01/25
<b>Author:</b>	Aguilar-Curry		
<b>Version:</b>	6/17/25 Amended		
<b>Urgency:</b>	No	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
<b>Consultant:</b>	Reichel Everhart		

**Subject:** Office of Farm to Fork: California Farm to School Program

### **SUMMARY:**

This bill would establish the California Farm to School Act for the purpose of cultivating equality, nurturing students, building climate resilience, and creating scalable and sustainable change in the school food system.

### **BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Office of Farm to Fork (FTF) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).<sup>1</sup> Among other duties, the FTF:
  - a. Works with the agricultural industry, direct marketing organizations, food policy councils, public health groups, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, academic institutions, district agricultural associations, county, state, and federal agencies, and other organizations involved in promoting food access to increase the amount of agricultural products available to underserved communities and schools in this state.
- 2) Establishes the California Universal Meals Program (UMP): In School Year 2022-23, California became the first state to implement a statewide Universal Meals Program for school children. The UMP builds on the foundations of the federal National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.<sup>2</sup>
- 3) Let's Eat Healthy Initiative: CDFA, along with the Dairy Council of California, launched a nutrition and community-health program to empower

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<sup>1</sup> Food and Agricultural Code Section 49001

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/cauniversalmeals.asp>

children, families, and communities to develop lifelong healthy eating habits.<sup>3</sup>

### **PROPOSED LAW:**

This bill:

- 1) Establishes the California Farm to School Program (Program). The Program would be developed, administered, and implemented by the Office of Farm to Fork under CDFA.
- 2) Requires the Program to increase procurement of foods that are grown or produced in California and are whole or minimally processed from food producers in California for school meal programs.
- 3) Requires the Program to increase hands-on food education opportunities that engage pupils and connect the classroom with the cafeteria.
- 4) Allows the Office of Farm to Fork, to the extent that funds are available, implement initiatives under the California Farm to School Program, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Initiatives that advance the California farm to school network, provide resources and facilitate relationships between local producers and school personnel.
  - b. Encourage opportunities to incorporate best practices such as scratch cooking, hands-on education, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), climate-smart agricultural practices, certification, and insurance.
  - c. Increase the nutritional profile of foods provided in schools.
  - d. Facilitate a California Farm to School Interagency Working Group.
- 5) States the Office shall administer the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program under the California Farm to School Program.
- 6) States the Office shall develop the programming for the California Farm to School Program in consultation with the State Department of Education and the State Department of Social Services.

### **ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author:

“The California Farm to School Program connects students with locally sourced food while providing culinary, environmental, and agricultural education. Serving 49% of California students—prioritizing those in high-need communities— the program increases procurement of “California-grown foods and promotes climate-smart practices, all while improving economic opportunities and enhancing education and nutrition in high-need communities.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://dairycouncilofca.org/what-we-do/lets-eat-healthy-initiative>

“AB 675 will codify the California Farm to School Program within California Department of Food and Agriculture, ensuring students receive nutritious, locally grown meals and access to hands-on food education, and supporting local farmers. Codifying this program will strengthen student development, enhance community climate resilience, and drive lasting, scalable change.”

### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**

None received.

### **RELATED LEGISLATION:**

AB 826 (Nava) 2005 California Farm to School Child Nutrition Improvement Program: This bill would have created the California Farm to School Child Nutrition Improvement Program (Farm to School program), which would have required the State Department of Education (SDE), to the extent funds are available from identified sources, and in collaboration with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Department of Health Services (DHS), to implement outreach and training of school food service personnel and the agricultural industry in order to facilitate the delivery of fresh fruits and vegetables to school cafeterias. *Vetoed by the Governor.*

AB 2121 (Nava) 2006 Farm Fresh Schools Program: This bill would have established the Farm Fresh Schools (FFS) program, administered jointly by the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Department of Health Services (DHS), in consultation with the State Department of Education (SDE). *Bill was held in Assembly Appropriations on the Suspense File.*

### **PRIOR ACTIONS:**

Assembly Floor:	79 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	14 - 0
Assembly Agriculture Committee:	8 - 0

### **SUPPORT:**

A Voice for Choice Advocacy  
California Health Coalition Advocacy

### **OPPOSITION:**

None received

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