



HEALTHY KIDS—HEALTHY ECONOMY

School Meals Using New Mexico-Grown Produce

2013 Legislative Briefing Sheet

Sponsors: Senator Pete Campos, Representative Ray Begaye
Funding Request: \$1.44 million

A funding investment to:

- 1) Purchase New Mexico-grown, fresh from the farm, fruits and vegetables to provide students with school meals that will encourage them to eat fresh produce for the rest of their lives.
- 2) Augment school nutrition programs by providing more New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables assisting schools in meeting new federal rules.
- 3) Strengthen New Mexico's farming economy and agricultural legacy by increasing market opportunities for small and mid-scale producers across the state.

What Legislative Funding Can Do:

For our Children

- The purchase of New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables will enhance the diets of school children, promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing academic achievement. Studies show healthy nutrition improves child well-being and learning ability.¹
- Stem the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico and help to save the state an additional \$ 324 million in obesity related health care expenses and an additional 1.2 billion for diabetes².

For our Schools

- School meal programs will have the budget to purchase local produce from New Mexico farmers.
- School food service directors will be in a better position to comply with recent federal rules requiring more servings of fruits and vegetables in the school meals.

For our Farmers and the Economy

- An emerging agricultural sector in New Mexico—small and medium size fruit and vegetable farmers—will gain a new market and increase their chances to stay on the land.
- The new federal school meal rules—and their emphasis on fruits and vegetables—will help develop a strong market for New Mexico farmers as well as enhance rural economies.

For our State

- Increasing economic farming opportunities will help to maintain family farming and conserve the unique heritage and cultural traditions of New Mexico.

Without Legislative Funding:

- There will be fewer opportunities to curb childhood obesity and other illnesses through an improved diet for children, rich in New Mexico-grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.
- School meal programs may not have the budget to purchase locally grown produce from New Mexico farmers.
- New Mexico will lose a critical opportunity to improve the rural sector and give a boost to the state's economy.

*For more information contact Pam Roy, New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council
505-660-8403 or pam@farmtotablenm.org*

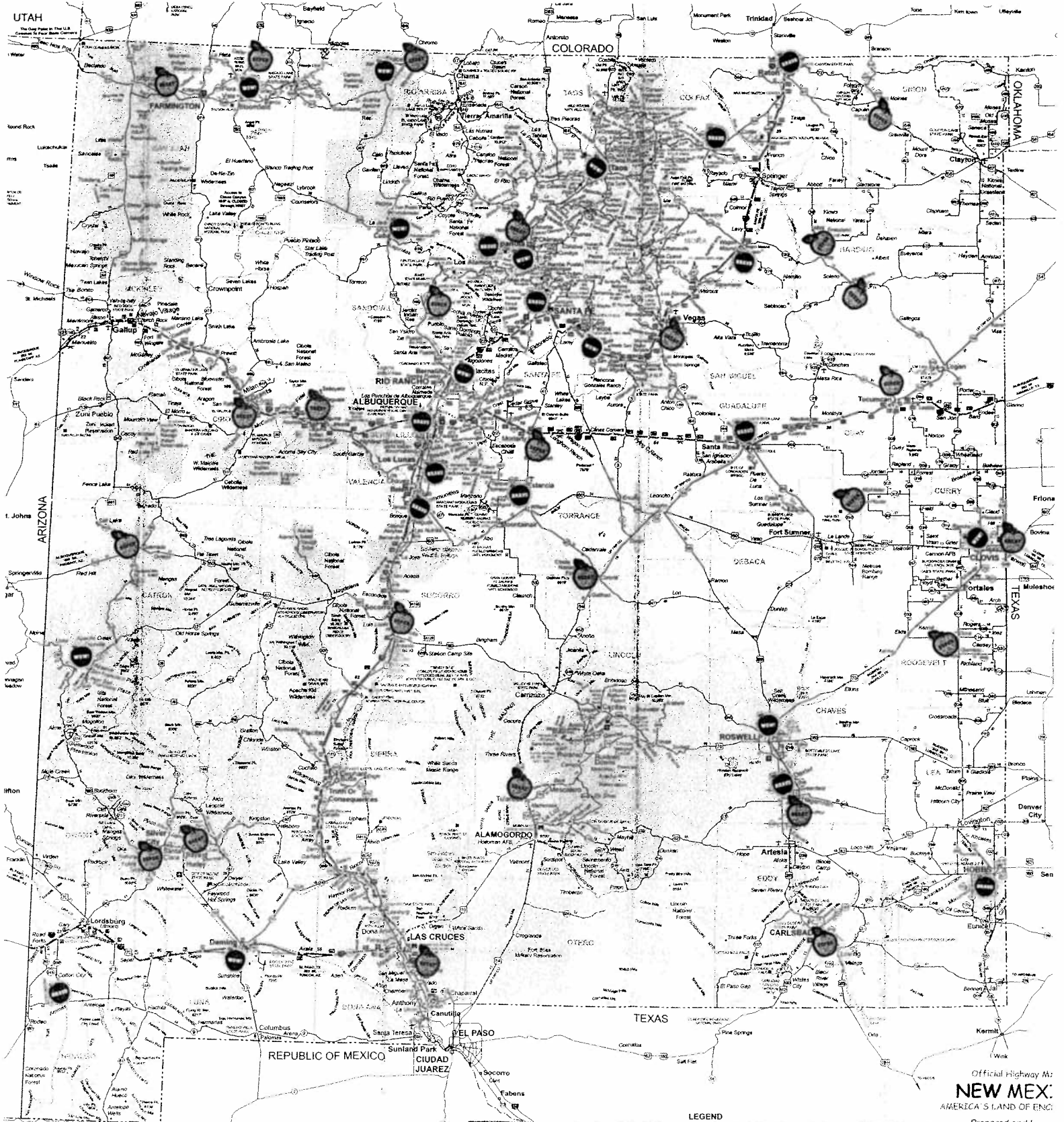
Important Facts:

- More than 1 in 4 children in New Mexico are considered food insecure and many depend on school meals for their main meal of their day.³
- There are close to 345,000 New Mexico children who have the potential to benefit from participating in the school lunch program.⁴
- The new USDA federal rule, based on legislation, and requiring more servings of fruits and vegetables, is estimated to cost an additional 10 cents for each reimbursable lunch, and 27 cents for each reimbursable breakfast. Yet, the anticipated Federal share for this food cost is \$.06 per meal.⁵
- The school meal programs will comply with the new rules but they will need funds if they are to purchase local New Mexico fruit and vegetables.
- This is a win-win for New Mexico—as the market develops for New Mexico-grown produce in schools, fruit and vegetable growers' incomes will rise and our children's overall health and academic performance will improve.
- Currently, over thirty-five school districts purchase New Mexico-grown produce. This number has tripled in 2012.⁶
- Since last year, the number of New Mexico fruit and vegetable producers selling to schools has doubled from 20 to 40. This is a significant and expanding market for New Mexico farmers.⁷
- If every student in New Mexican schools ate two servings of New Mexico-grown produce per week, about six million dollars would go to New Mexico producers. (344,00 students x 74 servings [2 per week x 37 weeks] x .25 cents per serving)⁸
- This year, Congress enacted the Farm to School Competitive Grants Program, providing over \$3 million annually to Farm to School Programs nationwide.
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/f2_2012_grant_program.htm
- In the 2008 Farm Bill, food service directors were given the ability to apply a geographic preference, allowing them to prioritize buying from local and regional farmers.
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/pressreleases/2011/0180.htm>

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Footnotes:

1. "Eating for Health and Academic Achievement," *Wisconsin School News*, Julie Allington, 2001, and "Diet Quality and Academic Performance", *Journal of School Health*, Florence, Asbridge and Veugelers, 2008
2. New Mexico Dept. of Health, 2006 and 2012
3. Food & Resource and Action Center, Food Hardship in America, August, 2011
4. New Mexico Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs, Approved Free and Reduced Percentages, Program Year: 2012
5. Federal Register/Vol. 77, No. 17/Thursday, January 26, 2012/Rules and Regulations
6. Shauna Woodworth, Farm to Table, Marketing Specialist, October, 2012
7. Shauna Woodworth, Farm to Table, Marketing Specialist, October, 2012
8. See Footnote #4 and New Mexico School Nutrition Association



Official Highway Map
NEW MEX.
AMERICA'S LAND OF ENchantment
Prepared and Issued
New Mexico
Department of Transportation

LEGEND

Interstate	Parks and Monuments	County Line	Cities and Towns
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New Mexico School Districts and Schools Purchasing NM Grown Produce

	School Meals 2011-2012	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
Albuquerque Public Schools	88,244	
Aneth Community School - BIE	165	
Animas Public Schools (Hidalgo)	226	
Aztec Municipal Schools		
Belen Consolidated Schools	4,502	x
Bernalillo Public Schools	3,244	x
Bloomfield Schools		
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	5,917	
Central Consolidated Schools (Shiprock area)	6,576	
Cimarron Municipal Schools	348	x
Clovis Municipal Schools	8,809	x
Cobre Consolidated Schools	1,357	x
Corona Public Schools	77	
Cuba Independent Schools	561	
Deming Public Schools	5,402	
Des Moines Municipal Schools	81	
Dexter Consolidated Schools	1,016	
Dora Consolidated Schools	245	
Dulce Independent Schools	693	
Española Public Schools	4,310	x
Estancia Municipal Schools	847	x
Farmington Municipal Schools	10,578	x
Guadalupe Montessori School (Silver City are)	70	
Hagerman Municipal Schools	451	
Hobbs Municipal Schools	8,634	
House Municipal Schools	98	
Inst. of American Indian Art (Santa Fe)	212	
Jemez Valley Public Schools	383	
Laguna	358	
Las Cruces Public Schools	24,715	x
Las Vegas City Public Schools	1,859	x
Los Alamos Public Schools	450	
Los Lunas Public Schools	8,332	x
Maxwell Municipal Schools	89	
McCurdy Schools of Northern NM	229	
Moriarty-Edgewood Schools	3,224	x
Mosquero Municipal Schools	53	
Mountainair Public Schools	287	x
Pecos Independent Schools	638	x
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools	2,048	
Quemado Independent Schools	152	x
Raton Public Schools	1,287	
Reserve Independent Schools	149	

Roswell Independent Schools	10,186	
Roy Municipal Schools	40	
Santa Fe Public Schools	13,340	x
Santa Fe Indian School - BIE		
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	616	
Santa Fe University of Art & Design	385	
Silver City Consolidated Schools	3,008	
Socorro Consolidated Schools	1,908	x
Springer Municipal Schools	193	
St Francis Lumberton (Dulce)	100	
St Joseph Mission School (Cibola Co.)	41	
Taos Municipal Schools	3,063	x
Texico Municipal Schools	547	
Tucumcari Public Schools	1,069	
Tularosa Municipal Schools	863	
Wagon Mound Public Schools	78	
West Las Vegas Public Schools	1,714	x
TOTALS	234,067	
Approximately \$500,000 of NM farm fresh produce has been sold in 2012 to schools.		
Total produce sales of local produce to schools through Farm to Table = More than \$110,000.		
Total pounds of fruit and vegetables sold to schools (through FTT) = over 200,000 lbs to date		
Most common products sold:		
Apples, Bell peppers, Cantaloupe, Cucumbers, Honeydew, Onions, Peaches, Plums, Potatoes,		
Salad Greens, Spinach, Tomatoes, Watermelons, Zucchini.		
Prepared by: Farm to Table November 8, 2012		