

Date: October 28, 2025



Utah State Board of Education

Recommended Action: The USBE Board approves Child Nutrition Program staff to partner with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to apply for the FY2026 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant due December 5, 2025.

Background: USDA Food and Nutrition Service has released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA). Eighteen million dollars has been appropriated for this competitive grant. State agencies are eligible to apply for grant funding to launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts. Applications are due December 5, 2025. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food will submit the application and request \$500,000.

Purpose: The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program, authorized in the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) ([42 USC 1751 et seq.](#)), is designed to increase the availability of local foods in Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operations and connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for Child Nutrition Program meals. The National School Lunch Act requires school food authorities (SFAs) to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products.

Why is the Funding Being Requested? The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food does not administer Child Nutrition Programs; they are required to partner with USBE Child Nutrition Programs to be eligible for the grant. USBE Child Nutrition Programs will dedicate \$125,000 (25% of \$500,000) as an in-kind match.

The Board approved Child Nutrition Program staff to participate as a collaborative partner in the FY2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School grant. FY2025 farm to school grants were subject to availability of funding and not awarded.

What will the funding be used for? The funding will be used to support schools in meeting the Buy American thresholds for the National School Lunch Program which began in school year 2026. The grant project will focus on connecting school foodservice programs with Utah fruit growers to expand local procurement and geographic preference.

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This draft is for consideration during the November 6, 2025, Board Meeting.