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## **Comments Received:**

Farm to School is an easy, bipartisan win for every community. Students are given the precious experience of understanding where their food comes from and are taught self-sufficiency skills. Local food producers are able to develop new and expanded market channels for their harvests when local food is procured for child nutrition programs. Local food economies are bolstered when the rate of local purchasing increases, keeping both profits and food in the community. The Farm to School census has become an essential tool for measuring Farm to School activity trends, strengths, and needs. Food producers use this data to engage with their local schools around local food procurement and garden/agriculture education. In addition, those in positions to support schools and food producers are able to leverage the census data to better resource and encourage farm to school activities. While the task of participating in the census falls to the schools and districts, the ask is reasonable and supportive of ongoing resourcing. Please maintain funding and resourcing for the Farm to School Census.