

Resolution to Support 10 Cents a Meal for School Kids and Farms

Whereas: Michigan falls woefully behind the national average in eating enough fresh fruits and vegetables daily for good health, according to statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas: Countless studies have shown that the health habits we learn as children carry over into adulthood; and if children are exposed to fresh fruits and vegetables at a young age they are more likely to establish healthy eating habits for a lifetime;

Whereas: Schools are where children eat up to two meals a day and snacks, and as a result schools are a pivotal place for children to learn healthy eating habits and receive nutrition that supports them in best showing up to learn;

Whereas: Michigan farms rank second only behind California in the wide diversity of products that they grow, including a wide array of delicious fruits and vegetables—the very foods that studies show help reduce costly chronic disease;

Whereas: Farm to school programs in Michigan and nationally have proven to be a positive strategy for introducing children to new fruits and vegetables and getting them excited about eating them; and also can offer effective activities that meet teaching goals;

Whereas: Surveys by the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems have consistently shown strong interest among Michigan school food service directors in purchasing local foods (and among farmers in selling to schools) but tight school food service budgets were cited as a barrier.

Whereas: The purpose of Michigan's innovative 10 Cents a Meal for School Kids & Farms pilot program is to improve the daily nutrition and eating habits of children through the school setting, and to invest in Michigan's agricultural economy;

Whereas: 10 Cents a Meal provides matching funds to grant-winning school districts to purchase Michigan grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans;

Whereas: Grant-winning food service directors say the program has allowed them to introduce new foods to students, including 67 newly introduced fruits, vegetables, and dry beans in 2018-2019 alone, with positive responses from students;

Whereas: The 10 Cents a Meal program doubles the state's investment by directing school food purchasing dollars towards Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans, and to Michigan farms, businesses, and jobs;

Whereas: 10 Cents a Meal has expanded financially and geographically to new parts of Michigan each year since 2016, growing from serving 48,000 students in its first year to nearly 135,000 in the 2018-2019 year in five regions of the state, and it could go statewide;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the **(board of School District or Organization)** adds its name to the list of citizens and organizations that support 10 Cents a Meal and investing in local foods for kids in schools as a part of Michigan's identity. We encourage the legislature and governor to make 10 Cents a Meal a permanent program and sufficiently fund it in the budget (\$2 million in 2019-2020.)

See the current full list of supporters at tencentsmichigan.org/supporters.