

SB 782 (Skinner): California-Grown Fresh School Meals



Photo Courtesy of The Center for Ecoliteracy

Opportunity

SB 782 establishes a grant program to incentivize public schools to serve more California-grown food in freshly prepared school meals.

- High-quality, healthy school meals support the health and academic achievement of students. Research shows that the benefits are strongest for economically disadvantaged students.
- Unfortunately, many school districts face fiscal challenges when working to improve the quality of fresh, healthy school meals.
- By incentivizing school districts to buy California-Grown ingredients for freshly prepared meals, SB 782 connects more low-income students to the health and academic benefits of high-quality school meals while supporting California's local agriculture and economy.

Legislative Action

- ➔ SB 782 would improve student health and achievement by increasing the use of California-grown foods in freshly prepared, nutritious school meals through a public-private grant fund.

Why This Matters

High-quality school meals made with fresh, local ingredients do more than support the health and academic success of California students – they also support California's local agriculture and economy.

According to a Fresno State University Center for Agricultural Business study, every one dollar (\$1) spent in the agriculture sector adds two dollars and fifty-six cents (\$2.56) to the state economy.

SB 782 helps school districts purchase and serve fresh, healthy food grown in California, and helps improve the quality of school meals. SB 782 allows schools to extend the health and academic benefits of school meals to more low-income students who quality free or reduced-price meals.