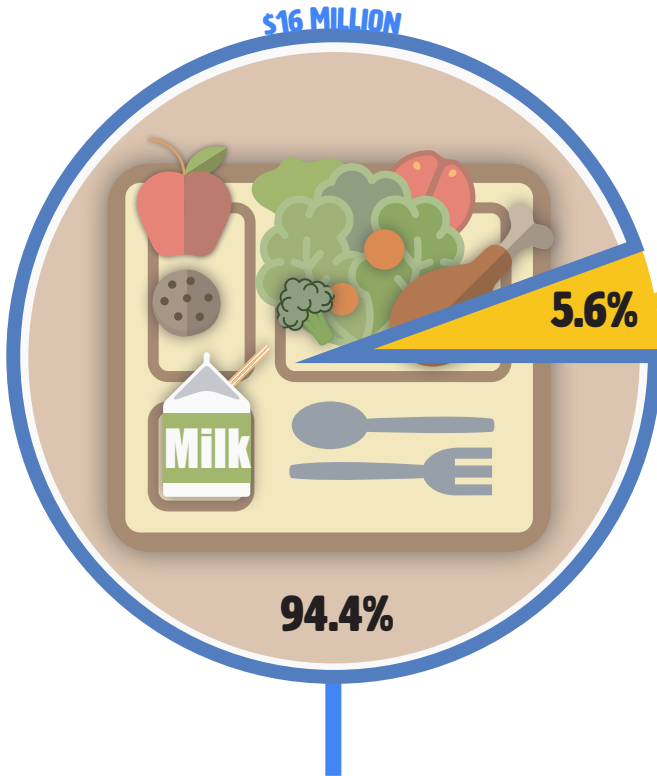


# What Happens When Schools Buy Local Food?

EVERY  SPENT CONTRIBUTES ADDITIONAL **60¢** to the LOCAL ECONOMY



Vermont schools spent **\$16 million** on food in the 2013-2014 school year.

**\$915,000** was spent on local food

Which directly supported local producers and processors...



Which means farmers can **grow** their businesses...

...and **support** other businesses like distributors & stores



All together, local food purchased by schools contributed **\$1.4 MILLION** to Vermont's economy!



## Imagine the possibilities

if more of the remaining **\$15 MILLION** were spent on local food!

For more information, see "Economic Contribution and Potential Impact of Local Food Purchases Made by Vermont Schools."

# Vermont schools spent **\$915,000** on local foods during the 2013-2014 school year.

When accounting for inter-industry and household spending effects, the total economic contribution to the Vermont economy was **\$1.4 million**.

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## Key Findings:

- ▶ 5.6% of food purchased by Vermont schools is produced locally.
- ▶ If Vermont schools doubled their local food spending (from 5.6% to 11.2%) the total economic impact would increase to \$2.1 million.
- ▶ Economic value is one metric of farm to school programming that can be used to determine the value of farm to school programming. Other metrics include:
  - Health and nutrition
  - Education
  - The environment

## Methods:

- ▶ This economic contribution and impact study was conducted by the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont from October 2015 through February 2016 for the Farm to School Network.
  - ▶ The data used for this study was acquired from the Vermont Agency of Education, a school food management company, the school food director association, two distributors, and three food hubs. NOFA Vermont and the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund provided guidance to ensure adequate coverage of local food purchases made by schools.
  - ▶ An economic contribution study calculates the cumulative amount of money that cycles through an economy between industries, households, and government agencies as a result of changes in the industry or events.
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