

## B.C. food in Kindergarten to Grade 12 school food programs benefits students, schools, and communities.



### Strengthening the local food system

Sourcing from B.C. food producers and processors can create local business growth opportunities and jobs. Working with local food businesses may provide opportunities to adapt or customize food items for school food programs. By growing community networks, schools may improve resilience in the case that global supply chains are disrupted.



### Building the local economy

Every dollar spent on B.C. food in schools and other public institutions brings a **two-fold value** to B.C.'s economy. By cultivating community partnerships and connections with local food suppliers, school food programs build a foundation for growing local communities and economies.



### Increasing students' food systems knowledge and connections

Purchasing from local business can foster relationships between schools and farmers, processors, fishers/ranchers, traditional gatherers, and Knowledge Holders who in turn can offer valuable educational opportunities for students about food skills, food systems, climate and culture.

## Did you know?

**1 in every 40** British Columbians are employed by the province's food and agriculture sector.

More B.C. food in schools brings benefits to **1579** schools and over **600,000** students.

There are over **3,000** food and beverage manufacturing establishments in B.C.

Programs such as **Farm to School (F2S)** and **BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation** that bring local food education into schools can provide hands-on learning experiences that foster food literacy.

For every \$1 million a school spends on B.C. food, there are **13** new food and food systems jobs, **\$598K** in new annual wages, and **\$858K** in new provincial GDP contributed to the local economy.

Food and beverage manufacturing is the **second-largest** processing sector in the province in the terms of sales.