



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 3974 (Senator Kennedy)/ Assembly Bill 7482 (Assemblymember Woerner)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, IN RELATION TO
FACILITATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN PURCHASING LOCAL AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS**

Date: 1/18/2022

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. This legislation would remove the cap on how much local purchases can be made by school districts and board of cooperative educational services. Also, this bill would allow the bids to include language that would favor local or regional procurement.

New York schools serve breakfast, lunch, and afterschool meals to 1.7 million schoolchildren each year. With the Farm to School program, schools are offering more local and healthy food which improves student health and academic performance. While this program is important, there are still other barriers that limit their ability to purchase local agricultural products. This legislation would eliminate more of those barriers so that schools and board of cooperative educational services can take more steps to provide healthy meals to students and support New York's farms.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.