

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
2016 Bill/Resolution



Committee: Health

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Bill No.: S36

Delegation: ALA NM Girls State 2016

Status: Failed in committee

Title of Bill: NM Grown for NM Kids

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2 **Be It Enacted By The American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State 2016**

3 **Section I. Body:** School meals are required to include a fruit and vegetable
4 in every meal. With increased access to local produce, students will be
5 eating healthier every school day. Local food systems offer a selection of
6 fresher, more nutritious, and less processed produce. A USDA Economic
7 Research Service report found that farm to school initiatives that increase
8 availability while reducing price are an effective method of promoting fruit
9 and vegetable consumption among children. In addition to being fresher and
10 healthier, moving from national distributors to local produce promotes local
11 businesses and farmers. The promotion of more local businesses lead to a more
12 developed local economy.

9 **Section II. Definitions:**

10 Local Produce: Fruits, vegetables, and dairy products grown and originating
11 from farming areas in New Mexico.

12 Fruits: The sweet and fleshy product of a plant that contains seed(s) and can
13 be eaten as food.

14 Vegetable: A part of a plant that is used as food.

15 Distributor: A nationwide company whose products do not originate from the
16 area of their consumers.

17 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): A federal organization
18 responsible for the leadership of food, agriculture, natural resources, rural
19 development, and nutrition.

20 Farm to School Program: A USDA program included in the Food and Nutrition
21 Service's Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS) that works to promote the
22 cooperation of public schools and local farmers to bring local produce into
23 schools.

Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS): A subsection of the USDA which helps
child nutrition.

21 **Section III. Penalty:**

22 At least 75% of all produce used for New Mexico public school breakfasts and
23 lunches should come from a local vendor. Local vendors will sell orders of
fruits and vegetables, which are in their peak season, to New Mexico public

school nutrition departments. The produce that is sold must be kept fresh, for the allotted time to ensure freshness. Produce that comes from a national distributor may only be used if there is a shortage of local produce. All local produce agencies that will be incorporated into school lunches must be cleared to sell through the USDA.

At the program's startup, all New Mexico public school nutrition employees will be required to attend a short training workshop to determine how to best implement the program to suit their school's needs. At the workshop, nutrition staff will learn how to organize and structure their efforts to ensure maximum efficiency.

Training for a new generation of farmers will also be incorporated into schools. New Mexico public schools will be advised to give a minimum of 45 minutes per month to educate students about where their lunch and breakfast produce is coming from. Students will also learn of the state's history of farming, as well as current farming implements in everyday life.

NM Grown for NM Kids will work in cooperation with the USDA Farm to School Program.

Failure to follow the program guidelines will result in stricter food codes and regulations. Schools that do not properly allocate funding will be subject to an overall review of all programs receiving state funding and possible budget cuts to be determined by the inspectors.

Section IV. Repeal: All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section V. Effective Date: The provisions of this act shall be effective on and after July 1, 2018.