

## Opportunities for Local Governments to



### Through governance:

- **Ensure that local by-laws and policies** are not creating barriers to school food initiatives.
- **Establish a local food charter.**
- **Support an evaluation of the current Student Nutrition Program model** to ensure a universal program that provides high-quality meals and that aligns with a broad vision for school food.

### Through funding and in-kind support:

- **Provide funding for Student Nutrition Programs in your region.**
- **Fund school coordinators and/or community partners to work with school and Student Nutrition Program staff.** These dedicated staff can champion and support food programs and work to achieve goals relating to comprehensive school health.
- Provide **community initiative grants** towards school food programs.
- **Provide infrastructure and equipment** (e.g. shipping containers and refrigerated storage units so that multiple programs can store food outside of school hours; or community-shared processing equipment so that programs can very quickly cut up fresh vegetables for snacks).
- **Invest in school kitchen facilities that can be accessed by community groups or community kitchens that can be accessed by schools,** in line with the community food hub model.
- **Support logistics and distribution** (e.g. help establish food distribution hubs, such as a depot space in each region that has fridges and freezers so that farmers can drop off food and schools can pick it up whenever it is convenient for them, or enable transportation of food).
- **Provide technical support or guidelines for online portals** that connect farmers to schools.

### Through partnership building:

- **Provide forums for stakeholders to better understand each other and work together.**
- **Foster partnerships between schools and other public institutions** (e.g. facilitate transportation so that kids can access a community garden at a local city park).
- **Facilitate relationships between farmers and schools** to encourage local food procurement.

### By championing school food:

- **Join or liaise with a relevant school board health and wellness, environment, or related committee that deals with school food.**
- **Visit and learn about programs.**
- **Advocate for all schools to run universal Student Nutrition Programs;** help them with funding.

Visit [sustainontario.com/work/edible-education/say-yes/](https://sustainontario.com/work/edible-education/say-yes/) for more *Say Yes! to Good Healthy Food in Schools* resources.