

# SENATE BILL No. 277

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-20-50.3.

**Synopsis:** Indiana grown produce for students program. Establishes the Indiana grown produce for students program (program) to improve the nutrition and eating habits for children through the school setting while investing in the state's agricultural and related food business economy. Establishes the Indiana grown produce for students fund (fund) to provide grants to eligible schools for the reimbursement of certain expenses. Provides that an eligible school may receive a total grant amount based on the number of meals served by the eligible school during the previous school year. Requires the department of education to: (1) develop guidelines to award grants from the fund; (2) work in collaboration with the Indiana state department of agriculture to assist eligible schools in sourcing Indiana grown produce for the purposes of the program; and (3) submit an annual report concerning the program to the legislative council.

**Effective:** July 1, 2025.

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January 13, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture.

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First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# SENATE BILL No. 277



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-20-50.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2025]:  
4 **Chapter 50.3. Indiana Grown Produce for Students**  
5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "eligible school" means a:**  
6 **(1) school corporation; or**  
7 **(2) charter school;**  
8 **that participates in a school lunch program (as defined in**  
9 **IC 20-26-9-6).**  
10 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the Indiana**  
11 **grown produce for students fund established by section 7 of this**  
12 **chapter.**  
13 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "Indiana grown produce" refers**  
14 **to whole or minimally processed fruits, vegetables, and legumes**  
15 **grown in Indiana and, if minimally processed, processed in**  
16 **Indiana.**  
17 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the Indiana**



1 grown produce for students program established by section 6 of  
2 this chapter.

3 Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "students" means students  
4 attending an eligible school.

5 Sec. 6. The Indiana grown produce for students program is  
6 established to improve the nutrition and eating habits for children  
7 through the school setting while investing in the state's agricultural  
8 and related food business economy.

9 Sec. 7. (a) The Indiana grown produce for students fund is  
10 established to provide grants to eligible schools for the following:

11 (1) Reimbursement for up to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of  
12 Indiana grown produce purchased by an eligible school for  
13 students for use in meals as part of a school lunch program  
14 (as defined in IC 20-26-9-6).

15 (2) The cost of labor and transportation of Indiana grown  
16 produce that directly supports the activities and goals of the  
17 program. The amount paid under this subdivision may not  
18 exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant award.

19 (b) Subject to the requirements of this chapter, an eligible school  
20 may receive a total grant amount based on the number of meals  
21 served by the eligible school during the previous school year  
22 multiplied by ten cents (\$0.10).

23 Sec. 8. (a) The fund consists of the following:

24 (1) Appropriations from the general assembly.

25 (2) Gifts to the fund.

26 (3) Grants, including grants from private entities.

27 (4) Other state funds that are transferred to the fund.

28 (b) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from  
29 money in the fund.

30 (c) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not  
31 revert to the state general fund.

32 Sec. 9. (a) The department shall develop:

33 (1) guidelines to award grants; and

34 (2) a schedule to provide grants;

35 to eligible schools under this chapter.

36 (b) Beginning August 1, 2025, an eligible school may apply to the  
37 department to receive a grant from the fund in a manner and on a  
38 form provided by the department.

39 (c) To receive a grant, an eligible school must meet the  
40 guidelines developed under subsection (a) and provide information  
41 to the department concerning the total number of meals served by  
42 the eligible school during the previous school year.



1 (d) As a condition of receiving a grant under this chapter, an  
2 eligible school shall provide to the department copies of receipts  
3 that show the:

4 (1) quantity of Indiana grown produce purchased by the  
5 eligible school;

6 (2) amount of money spent by the eligible school on the  
7 Indiana grown produce;

8 (3) name and location of the farm that grew the Indiana  
9 grown produce; and

10 (4) transportation and labor costs related to the purchase of  
11 the Indiana grown produce, if the eligible school is seeking  
12 reimbursement for transportation and labor.

13 Sec. 10. The department shall work in collaboration with the  
14 Indiana state department of agriculture to assist eligible schools in  
15 sourcing Indiana grown produce for the purposes of the program.

16 Sec. 11. On or before October 1, 2026, and each October 1  
17 thereafter, the department, in consultation with the Indiana state  
18 department of agriculture, shall submit a report to the legislative  
19 council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 that contains the  
20 following:

21 (1) The number of eligible schools that participated in the  
22 program for the preceding school year.

23 (2) The amount awarded to each eligible school.

24 (3) Recommendations to increase access to Indiana grown  
25 produce in eligible schools.

26 Sec. 12. The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to  
27 implement this chapter.

