

Alaska State Legislature

Interim:

600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: (907) 376-3725
Fax: (907) 376-4768

**Session:**

Alaska State Capitol, Rm 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-3743
Fax: (907) 465-2381
Toll Free: (800) 565-3743
Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Carl Gatto

Chair, House Military and Veteran Affairs Committee
District 13 - Palmer

Fact Sheet HB 70

“An Act establishing the Farm-to-School program in the Department of Natural Resources, and relating to school gardens and Farms.”

What is the Farm-to-school Program?

- Fresh local foods served in schools
- In class nutrition education
- School gardens or farms
- Farm tours

Farm-to-School impacts:

- Increased fruit & vegetable consumption
- Improved knowledge, attitudes, and behavior concerning healthy eating

Sustainable food is:

- Grown organically/with natural methods...
- On a small or medium sized family farm...
- That treats its workers well...
- And then is sold for a fair price...
- Transported and bought relatively close to where it was grown...
- And eaten fresh and in season.

Impacts of current food system

- Chronic diseases, antibiotic resistance & food-borne illnesses
- Sprawl & farmland loss
- Water contamination
- Crop and biological diversity
- Pesticide exposure
- Air quality & energy use
- Economic justice

Farm-to-School can:

- Support sustainable farmers
- Teach kids to make lifelong healthy choices
- Reinvigorate school meal programs
- Support the local economy