

## SCHOOL SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE CREATING A UNIVERSAL SOLUTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Food and education are universal: Everyone eats. And every child goes to school, or should. How we educate the next generation to live together on this planet is essential for our future. We need to teach the values of stewardship, equity, nourishment, community and diversity. And what better place to teach those values than in the public school system?

What if schools purchased food directly from local, regenerative and organic farmers and ranchers who take care of the land and their farmworkers? Much like Community Supported Agriculture, School Supported Agriculture could become an economic stimulus for regenerative agriculture. Local school systems would become reliable buyers who could pay the true cost of food without a middleman. In turn, children in school would be nourished, and those essential values of stewardship would come right through the cafeteria doors. Local rural communities would be revitalized, and the urgent issues of climate and our children's health would be addressed. The power of procurement in the public school system could transform agriculture, health and education overnight.

