

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Key Drivers of Direct Local Food Sourcing by Schools

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: Farm to school (F2S) programs bridge the gap between local food producers and educational institutions and strive to promote nutrition for students, community engagement, and economic opportunities for farmers. Participating schools spent \$1.8 billion on local foods during the 2022-23 school year, making F2S one of the most prominent local foods programs in the U.S. Using data from the most recent F2S covering the 2022-23 school year, this report provides an overview of sources, funding, and mechanisms for districts purchasing local foods and uses a logistic regression model to examine the factors associated with districts sourcing local foods directly from individual food producers and from direct marketing channels, more broadly. We find rural districts were more likely to procure local foods from direct sources than urban and suburban districts. Further, districts with higher levels of F2S engagement were more likely to purchase local foods directly from individual producers and other direct marketing channels. Higher shares of direct-to-consumer producers and higher densities of farmers' markets, meat processing facilities, and refrigerated warehouses in a district's state were associated with a higher likelihood of purchasing directly from individual producers and direct marketing channels.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 2/7/2025 Completed: ---

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization

Opportunities for Public Comment?

Yes

No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?

Yes

No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?

Yes

No