



## Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act—What It Means for Schools and Dairy Farmers

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act has officially been signed into law—this is an exciting time for dairy farmers! We are proud of the role dairy farmers played in achieving this milestone. Your dairy checkoff dollars funded critical research on the health benefits of full-fat dairy and helped ensure the science supported this policy change.

The legislation allows school lunch programs to offer a broader range of dairy milk options, including whole and reduced-fat (2%) milk, in addition to the currently permitted low-fat (1%), fat-free (skim), flavored and unflavored, and lactose-free dairy milk.

- Checkoff has been a leader in advancing sound science, nutrition research and education on whole milk and whole milk dairy products.

Each year checkoff-funded research results in numerous studies—often 30 or more—in the pipeline with regularly published articles in peer-reviewed journals, all with the goal of strengthening dairy's place in the modern diet to benefit public health.

More than 80 studies have been published that highlight the role of whole milk and full-fat dairy in a healthy lifestyle.

In 2024 whole milk accounted for 47% of fluid milk sales, up from 27% in 2013.



### WHAT WE'RE DOING

- Encouraging school districts to include whole and 2% milk options in their 2026–2027 school milk bids.
- Communicating with processors that service school milk accounts to assess availability and pricing for the newly approved milk options.
- Continuing to promote additional dairy offerings in school cafeterias, such as hot chocolate milk, smoothies, and lattes.
- Working with appropriate state-level authorities (Departments of Education or Agriculture, depending on state structure) to understand how implementation will occur in each state.

## WHOLE MILK RESEARCH SPEAKS VOLUMES

American Dairy Association North East cannot take a position on legislation and policy. This information is for educational purposes only. For specific questions about the legislation, we recommend contacting National Milk Producers Federation.