Farm to School 101

What You Need to Know to Get Started
Speakers

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• In our attempt to protect our children from the ravages of diseases caused by childhood obesity & poor nutrition …

Farm to School is part of the solution.
Why Farm to School?

• Kids WIN 🍎

• Farmers WIN 🍒

• Communities WIN 🧷
Inequities in Food System

• Racial and income disparities exist in our food system.
• These outcomes span both urban and rural settings and are a result of structural and institutional policies and practices that put many of our children at a disadvantage.
The Idea of Farm to School

• Based on the idea that students will choose healthier foods including:
  ─ More fruits and vegetables
  ─ Fresh, locally grown products
  ─ Choices being reinforced with educational activities
A Strategy for Change

Farm to school is a strategy that provides opportunities to address these racial and social disparities in the existing food system.

- Procurement of local foods
- School gardens
- Education about food and farming
NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 7500 Students
- 2 High Schools
- 3 Middle Schools
- 8 Elementary Schools

Total Meals /Day = 3400
FANS: EDUCATIONAL LOOP
History of F2S in Novato Unified School District

• NUSD FANS has participated in the Farm to School program since 2003
  - Committed to bringing students fresh, organic, and local produce regularly
  - 90% of all our produce used is from California
  - We support the local economy by working with local farmers
  - We have over 60 local organic farms in Marin County
# Novato USD Averages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2002</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Produce/week</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>$9000</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Fresh Produce</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>15% – 20%</td>
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Farm to School Loop
Salad Bars

• Farm to School is a great benefit for the children of NUSD and the community as a whole!
Menu Choices

• Yogurt Parfaits
• Fruit salads or side offerings
• Kale Salads
• Milk
• Bread
Wellness in the Schools

- Culinary cooking and nutrition classes that are taught by certified Chefs during the school day in 50 minute class periods to K – 8th grade students
Things to think about

- F2S cornerstone for food inequities
- F2S permits creativity
- F2S increases local fruits & veggies
- F2S opportunity to educate
- F2S reduces carbon footprint
- F2S supports community

"Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food"
Hippocrates
National Farm to School Network

Growing Stronger Together
A Growing Movement

Farm to school is on the rise in early care and education

54% Already integrate farm to school activities
28% Plan to start farm to school soon
74% of those who serve local plan to increase their local food purchases

Farm to school benefits all young children

40% of these farm to school sites serve low-income children

Learn more:
farmtoschool.org/earlychildhood
Our Network – Your State

Nevada Profile

- Visit the Nevada Department of Agriculture Website
- Supporting Partners
  - Create a Change Now
  - Urban Roots

Nevada’s farm to school movement is growing, literally! Since 2012, there has been a significant increase in farm to school activities, especially in the amount of school gardens which has had an increase of 44%. The Nevada Department of Agriculture has been instrumental in laying the foundations for all things farm to school. Multiple grants from the USDA for Farm to School have helped Nevada create an instrumental School Garden Food Safety Program and establish an annual School Garden Conference. Innovative non-profit organizations such as Urban Roots, Green our Planet, Create a Change Now, and Healthy Communities Coalition make up our diverse farm to school network. These organizations do much of the ground work by hosting workshops, providing funding for schools, and creating farm to school curriculum. This collaborative team strives for success each year by continuing to advance the farm to school presence in the state of Nevada.
State Networks

Map of State Farm to School Networks
This map indicates the presence or absence of a farm to school network in each state and U.S. territory as of March 2018.

28 State Networks
State Positions

27 Full time Positions
State Policies

LACKING F2S LEGISLATION
Never proposed or enacted

EXPLORING F2S PROGRAMS
Task forces, councils, working groups, pilot programs or other support

LOCAL PURCHASING PREFERENCE LAWS
Requiring or encouraging state agencies, including school, to purchase food locally

UNFUNDED F2S PROGRAM
Farm to early care and education, farm to school or school garden programs

FUNDED F2S PROGRAM
Through appropriations, grants or reimbursement

FUNDED F2S COORDINATOR POSITION
State employee dedicated to coordinating state farm to school efforts

33 States with Funded Policies

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

FARM TO ECE

NATIVE COMMUNITIES

SEED CHANGE
State-level engagement

EQUITY

SHARED METRICS

MOVEMENT BUILDING

POLICY ADVOCACY
SEARCHABLE RESOURCE DATABASE WITH 400+ PRODUCTS
www.farmtoschool.org
Services Offered

www.farmtoschool.org/join

“Trending Topics” Webinars

National Conference

Blog

Monthly Enewsletter

Consulting

National Farm to School Month Campaign
Stay Connected

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Office of Community Food Systems
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Role of OCFS

• Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act was amended to create a Farm to School Program to:

1. Distribute grant funding to improve access to local foods in schools.
2. Provide training and technical assistance to improve access to local foods in schools.
3. Disseminate research and data on existing programs and opportunities for expansion.
OCFS 2018 Priorities

- F2S Grant Program
- Technical Assistance to States
  - State Agency convening(s) & networks
  - Procurement trainings
- Integrate farm to school throughout USDA
  - Local foods messaging & resources
- Evaluation
  - Grantee report
  - 2019 Farm to School Census
- Producer-focused training & resources
Farm to School Includes Efforts that:

• Bring locally or regionally produced foods into school cafeterias;
• Hands-on learning activities, such as gardens and farm visits; and
• Integration of food-related education into school curriculum.

• Programs are shaped by community, geographic region, and scope
• Includes Farm to Summer and Farm to CACFP
Farm to School Grants

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM // BY THE NUMBERS (2013-2017)

365 GRANTEES
$25M IN FUNDING
OVER
OVER 29K SCHOOLS
APPROX. 13M STUDENTS
IN ALL 50 STATES

1,632 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
$120M REQUESTED
ON AVERAGE 1 IN 5 APPLICATIONS FUNDED

WELCOME TO Bright Ideas #ANC18

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Farm to School Census

42% of districts surveyed by USDA say they participate in farm to school activities.

That’s 5,254 districts and 42,587 schools bringing the farm to school for the benefit of an estimated 23.6 million children.

USDA's Farm to School Census shows schools invest $790 MILLION in local communities. That’s a 105% increase over previous results!

https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

The United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

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OCFS – NFSN Partnership

- Strategic Planning
  - State Agency engagement
- Communications
  - Resource sharing
  - Promoting Farm to School
- Technical Assistance
  - ECE, procurement, Native communities
- Research & Evaluation
  - Reports, census
Delivered every other Tuesday, chock full of updates, webinar info, relevant news, and field notes! More than 30,000 subscribers.

Subscribe at
www.usda.gov/farmtoschool
Activity

• Work on your own or in a small group to list:
  • 1. What Farm to School activities could you implement in your school/community/organization/agency?
  • 2. List 5+ steps to get your Farm to School plan off the ground
  • 3. Who should you approach as partners? Why?
  • 4. What challenges do you anticipate and what solutions could you propose to overcome those challenges?

• Be ready to report back to the larger group