



“We want to connect what children learn in the classroom with what we’re serving in the cafeteria.”

—Kim Mutch

An Urban Perspective

No small task - preparing 90,000 meals a day

The logistics and scale of large, urban school lunch programs make it difficult to bring locally grown, minimally processed foods into school cafeterias. Unfortunately, the urban environment also leaves children more disconnected from agriculture than in rural districts.

“There are many people who are interested in bringing farm fresh produce to kids,” says Milwaukee Public Schools Nutrition Administrator Kim Mutch, “But it’s difficult when you live in an urban area to get a connection to the rural farmer.”

A new partnership means fresh, local food

To overcome these barriers MPS has entered into an innovative partnership with Growing Power, a groundbreaking urban farm in Milwaukee, and SYSCO, a national food wholesaler and distributor.

MPS is able to order fresh, local foods from Growing Power – such as sunflower sprouts and pea shoots – through SYSCO. This makes buying local easy and convenient for a large, urban school while offering a new market for Growing Power.

Building better communities

Mutch hopes that other urban schools can learn from and replicate the programs she has worked hard to establish. “Farm to school is an opportunity handed to us on a silver platter. Wisconsin is a fertile and productive state, and farm to school is a win-win. We are feeding our kids better, helping the Wisconsin economy, and building better communities.”

Why Farm to School in Wisconsin?

Good for kids’ health

- Fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods help fight obesity.

Good for farmers

- Schools provide local farmers with new or expanded markets.

Good for the community

- Local farmers are supported and money stays in the local economy.

Good for schools

- Overall, schools report a 3-16% increase in meal participation when farm-fresh food is served, thus bringing in more funds.

