

Wisconsin Farm to School

Farm to school encourages healthy lifestyles in children and helps support local economies. In Wisconsin, farm to school programs connect schools with locally and regionally grown and produced products.



Goals of Wisconsin Farm to School:

- Promote children’s health by providing fresh and minimally processed foods in schools and supporting the development of healthy eating habits
- Strengthen children’s and communities’ knowledge about, and attitudes toward agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment
- Strengthen local economies by expanding markets for Wisconsin agricultural producers and food entrepreneurs

Children Win:

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

Farmers Win:

Schools provide local farmers with new or expanded markets.

Communities Win:

Money stays in the local economy.

Schools Win:

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

Comprehensive Farm to School Programming:

The guidelines for a comprehensive farm to school program include:

1) Local or regional procurement, 2) Nutrition and agricultural education, and 3) Student engagement activities such as school gardening.

Not all farm to school programs begin at the comprehensive level. Here are some suggested guidelines for building a comprehensive farm to school program.

- **Foundational Level:** Start with a focus on local or regional procurement and include at least one of the comprehensive elements listed above
- **Building Level:** Meets foundational level and includes at least one additional comprehensive element
- **Comprehensive Level:** Includes all of the comprehensive elements

“Farm to school is what Wisconsin needs.

We are helping our farmers and raising healthier kids. It’s a win, win, win down the line.”

- Diane Chapeta, former Nutrition Director, Chilton and Hilbert School Districts

