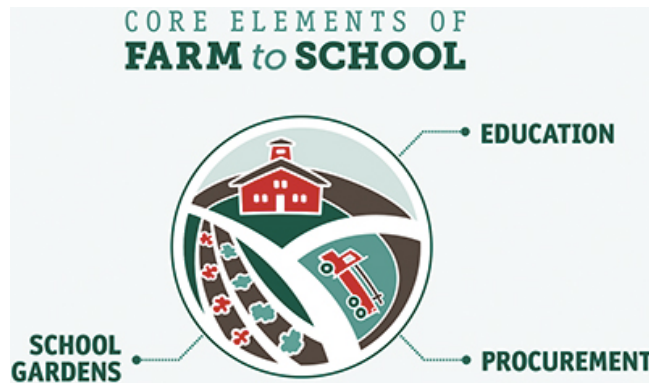


# What is farm to school?

**Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools.**

Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following:



**Procurement:** Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test;

**Education:** Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition; and

**School gardens:** Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening.

## Why farm to school?



### Kids WIN

Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.



### Farmers WIN

Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening the doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.



### Communities WIN

Buying from local producers and processors reduces the carbon footprint of food transportation while stimulating the local economy. Educational activities such as school gardens and composting programs create a healthy environment around the school community.

40,328\* Schools • 44%\* of US Schools • 23.5M\* Students Engaged • \$385M\* Spent on Local Food • 40 States with Supportive Policies • 12,000+ NFSN Members

\* Estimated based on data from the USDA Farm to School Census for the 2011 - 2012 school year.