



Developing a Farm to School plan

Once you have assembled a team, establishing a vision and clear goals for your Farm to School efforts will help ensure success. Here are a few key ideas to keep in mind:

1) **Establish a vision.**

- a) What will your Farm to School activities encompass? What is the ideal future state you would like to see for your program?
- b) Will your efforts go beyond purchasing local food items?
- c) Will your efforts include agriculture and nutrition education, taste-tests, local harvest events, field trips to nearby farms, etc.?

2) **Set achievable goals.**

- a) Using your vision, decide on first steps that will help you get there. Your goals will change each year, while your vision should remain constant.
- b) Goals in the cafeteria could focus on number and frequency local food items are served.
- c) Goals in the classroom may be geared toward physical activity, agriculture, or nutrition education.
- d) Goals in the community could include farmers, parents, community organizations, colleges or universities, or nonprofit organizations coming together around your vision.

3) **Start small.**

- a) It is important not to feel overwhelmed with all that you would like to accomplish. Starting small increases your chances of success and gives you a foundation to build on.
- b) Choose one or two local food items that you can easily incorporate into your existing recipes or menu.
- c) If you have a larger school district, consider testing the local food item(s) at a few





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school sites rather than the entire district.

d) Begin with school sites that are willing to make the shift to incorporating local food items and grow from there.

4) **Develop a back-up plan.**

a) If the local food items you intend to purchase are unavailable for some reason, be prepared with a back-up plan from another source.

5) **Evaluate your program.**

a) Based on your goals, evaluate your progress on a weekly, monthly, or annual basis. You can't improve what you don't measure!

