



Assessment Tool

Is your Farm to School program *starting up*, *cruising* or *breaking barriers*? For each question, circle the check mark after the statement that best reflects your Farm to School program.

Menu Planning: How many Farm to School foods are served?	Starting Up	Cruising	Breaking Barriers
We offer one local food a month during the growing season (3-5 items).	✓		
We offer one local food a week during the growing season and/or one local food a month for the entire year (6-12 items).		✓	
We offer one local food daily during the growing season and/or throughout the school year (12+ items).			✓
Sourcing: Where do you get your Farm to School foods?			
We purchase local products that are available from the distributor.	✓		
...and/or we purchase from a farmer or farmers market for the week's menu or plan with a distributor for specific products or arrange for light processing.		✓	
...and/or we have a growing plan and a contract with a farmer and/or a school garden or orchard utilized and/or specified local foods as part of our bidding criteria.			✓
Education: How do students learn about Farm to School foods?			
We hang posters and educational material and create other simple educational messages such as announcements of Farm to School foods.	✓		
...and, we provide nutrition education in the classroom and link the education when appropriate to Farm to School foods.		✓	
...and, students visit local farms or make personal connections with the farm and farmers. Student projects are connected with Farm to School.			✓
Equipment or Capital Improvements: Have you updated your kitchen to support Farm to School?			
We made minor changes in our kitchen and/or purchased small items such as knives or food processors to support minimal prep of local foods.	✓		
We made significant changes to our kitchen that support serving local foods (salad bar purchases, steamers, etc).		✓	
We made major changes to our kitchen that support serving local foods (remodeling, capital equipment purchases such as freezers etc).			✓
Community Involvement: How are community members involved in Farm to School?			
We involve community volunteers or other staff outside of food service as champions for Farm to School efforts.	✓		
...and we specify Farm to School efforts in school wellness policies.		✓	
...and district and community leaders are actively supportive of our Farm to School efforts.			✓
Promotions: How do you promote your Farm to School program and foods?			
We highlight Farm to School menu items on the menus and tray line and taste testing is provided for Farm to School foods.	✓		
...and, we announce Farm to School happenings in school newsletters and provide take home ideas for using local foods for families.		✓	
...and, we utilize various high profile media outlets to promote Farm to School efforts such as delivery trucks wrapped, billboards, local newspaper ads or stories, or social media (e.g. Twitter), school fundraisers are linked to Farm to School.			✓
TOTAL			

What did you find? Celebrate the work you've already done! Identify areas where you would like to move your school ahead and locate resources to support your efforts.