

Farm to school connects schools with fresh, local food grown or raised by Minnesota farmers.

Start small

- Fluid milk is often produced in Minnesota.
- Apples: Honeycrisp is the state apple.
- Other popular Minnesota farm to school foods: tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, corn, melons.

Where to Find Local Food

- [Use DoD Fresh to purchase local food](#)
- Search for local farmers near you on the [Minnesota Grown Wholesale Directory](#)
- Find a distributor that sources local food



FARM TO SCHOOL

Serving local Minnesota foods

72%

of school districts in Minnesota participate in Farm to School activities in some way.

(USDA Farm to School Census)

Benefits

- Promote healthy eating habits and reduce risk of childhood obesity and other health related disorders in children.
- Provide children access to local, healthy and nourishing foods.
- Facilitate education about nutrition, food, and agriculture in and out of the classroom.
- Increase school meal participation rates.
- Open up new markets and increase revenues and customer base for farmers.
- Develop community support and awareness about local food systems.

Procurement

Micro-Purchases are purchases that do not exceed \$3500. They may be made without competitive bids. The micro-purchases must be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers. Learn more about procurement guidelines at [USDA Guide: Procuring Local Foods](#).

Funding

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Farm to School Grant Program: Minnesota schools and childcare centers are eligible to apply for equipment grants and feasibility grants to increase the processing of Minnesota agricultural products.

Farm to School Toolkit

- [University of Minnesota Extension- Foodservice Toolkit](#)
- [Toolkit for Direct Purchasing of Local Foods](#)
- [Minneapolis Public Schools Farm to School Toolkit](#)
- [USDA Farm to School Planning Toolkit](#)
- [Farm to Child Nutrition Program Planning Guide](#)

Learn from Others

- [USDA Farm to School](#)
- [USDA Fact Sheets](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Agriculture Farm to School Success Stories](#)
- [Statewide Health Improvement Program Farm to School Stories](#)
- [National Farm to School Network Resource Library](#)

Contact

Sami Burington, Minnesota Department of Education, School Nutrition Program Consultant
Samantha.Burington@state.mn.us | 651-582-8376

Molly Butala, Minnesota Department of Education, Child and Adult Care Food Program
Molly.Butala@state.mn.us | 651-582-1611

Stephanie Heim, University of Minnesota Extension, Farm to School State Lead
heim0106@umn.edu | 507-252-6520