Farm to School

... 

a sustainable and healthy way to feed the future
What is Farm to School

“Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.” (National Farm to School Network).

**School Gardens**
Outdoor edible school gardens connect students of all ages to their food and provide experiential learning opportunities that impact student health outcomes. School gardens can be used by classroom teachers to teach science, math, writing, nutrition and more. Produce from edible school gardens can be tasted in the garden classroom, served in the cafeteria, sent home to families and donated to local food pantries.

**Local Food Procurement**
Serving locally grown and produced foods in schools is a “win” for students, a “win” for local farmers and a “win” for communities. Local foods can be served in the cafeteria, as a healthy snack, as part a healthy school meal or used in produce tastings. Schools who purchase locally produced foods make a positive contribution to the local economy, often supporting small family owned farms and other businesses.

**Nutrition Education**
Through farm to school education, students learn about local agriculture, healthy eating, the environment and the food system. Knowledge, leadership and self efficacy can lead students to make positive food choices for themselves and impact local food communities.
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.

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**Economic Sustainability, Environmental Sustainability & Health**

National Farm to School Network
www.farmtoschool.org
Farm Fresh New London County Schools

Partnership of

LLHD
Ledge Light Health District

New London County Food Policy Council
A Partnership for Food, Nutrition and Wellbeing

USDA Farm to School Support Services Grant

Increase awareness of and demand for locally grown, fresh food to be served in schools resulting in a 10% increase in the volume of locally produced food served in New London County schools.
What has been accomplished in New London County?

More locally grown and produced foods served in schools.
- 10 districts have purchased products directly from farmers; 5 additional districts increased the amount of local food purchased through a distributor
- 13 New London County farms have sold food directly to schools
- Piloted a project to process six crops for four New London County districts this growing season.

Convened school garden educators through the New London County School Garden Network & funded 10 school garden projects with the Outdoor Edible School Garden Mini-Grant program.

Created the Harvest for Schools & Youth Ambassador Programs to increase demand for farm to school in each district, building knowledge and leadership in participating districts.

Convened farmers, food service staff, educators, parents, youth, elected officials and community organizations to form the Farm Fresh New London County Schools Advisory Council.
Still more to come....

Farm to School Five Year Plan

Work with schools and districts to create farm to school policy within municipal districts

Create partnerships within each district to coordinate farm to school activities

Support an additional processing kitchen to preserve the local produce harvest to serve in schools year round

Continue to increase demand for local foods through Harvest for Schools, Farm to School Youth Ambassadors and School Gardens
How can you connect to the movement?

**Contact us:**

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Visit www.llhd.org/farm-fresh & www.freshnewlondon.org