

# YOUR SCHOOL WANTS TO DO FARM TO SCHOOL!



*Photo Credit: Rock On Café, Broome Tioga BOCES*

This checklist is designed to help stimulate thinking and discussion within your Farm to School team as you draft the mission and goals for your Farm to School program. Ask team members to read about the benefits and impacts with Farm to School in “Why Your School Wants to Do Farm to School” slides; use this list to check off what they think are the most important reasons.

## Cafeteria

The wellbeing of the children is the core mission of school food service—to ensure that no child goes hungry, to serve nutritious tasty food that helps them establish healthy diet choices. Farm to School programs have demonstrated results in helping the school meal program meet those goals.

✓ Cafeteria Reason	Notes
Increase access to fresher, healthier foods for all students	
Promote greater consumption of fruits and vegetables	
Access diverse foods and feature culturally appropriate menu	
Increase the participation rate in school meals	
Reduce food waste in storage, preparation and on the plate	
Promote the reputation of my school meal program	
Elevate the skills of food service staff in food preparation and cooking	
Support farms and state and local food businesses	
Other	

## Classroom

With healthy foods for breakfast, snacks and lunch, children are more likely to be ready to learn in the classroom. Farm to School engages students in experiential activities such as gardens, cooking lessons, field trips with curriculum on agriculture, food, and nutrition linked to Common Core standards. These learning activities stimulate interest in agriculture and STEM career paths.

✓ Classroom Reason	Notes
Help students be nourished and ready to learn	
Get students engaged with hands-on learning about food, agriculture, nutrition integrated into science, math, ELA	
Foster interest in STEM subjects and careers	
Improve behavior and academic performance	
Build leadership skills in students	
Increase parent engagement as volunteers with gardens, cooking lessons, field trips	
Model healthy diets, physical activity and lifestyles	
Other	

## Community

Farm to School and Community are a two-way street that produces win-win results. Farm to School programs need the support and engagement of families, taxpayers, businesses, local government agencies, civic and non-profit organizations. Procurement of local farm-grown foods contributes to the local economy with a multiplier effect to many other businesses those farms patronize.

✓ Community Reason	Notes
Support local farms and agricultural businesses	
Increase community awareness about how the school supports local farms and businesses	
Promote the reputation and value of the school meal program	
Increase food security and health of families	
Engage families, community organizations, businesses in gardens, food tastings, health and harvest events	
Inspire students to consider agriculture-related careers and choose to stay in rural communities	
Other	