

Farm to School Toolkit

The District Plan was created by Adams County and the City of Brighton to **preserve** agricultural land and heritage, **encourage** local food production, and **promote** agritourism.

The purpose of this toolkit is to provide schools with resources to create or enhance their Farm to School programs. In this context “Farm to School” refers to initiatives related to education, school gardens, and/or procurement.



From Colorado Farm to School Task Force

Where do we start?

- **Colorado Proud School Meal Day** is Wednesday, September 12, 2018. Visit the [Colorado Proud website](#) for more information.
- **Adopt a Farmer program:** a class “adopts” a local farmer who they correspond with through letters or videos. Visit [Western Dairy’s website](#) for information about their program.
- **Harvest of the Month program** highlight [in-season produce](#) and educate students.
- Look at **what products are in close proximity** to your school district, or **start with commodity products**. Ask the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture, or develop a profile at [co.foodmarketmaker.com](#).
- **Garden to cafeteria program** enable school gardens to sell to the school kitchen.

Who can help?

- **Start with your school district’s** health and wellness department to learn more about what is already happening and how to get involved.
- School districts interested in procuring locally grown food can contact Sara Rose Foreman at the **Colorado Dept. of Education** (foreman_s@cde.state.co.us)
- Farmers interested in selling to schools can contact Wendy White at the **Colorado Dept. of Agriculture:** (wendy.white@state.co.us)
- **USDA Food and Nutrition Service** Farm to School Program (www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool); contact Andrea Northup, Farm to School Regional Lead: (andrea.northup@fns.usda.gov)
- **LiveWell Colorado** has a School Food Initiative (livewellcolorado.org)
- **Slow Food Denver** has a Seed-to-Table School Garden Program (slowfooddenver.org)
- **Denver Urban Gardens** helps start school-based community gardens (dug.org)
- **Edible Schoolyard** has a national edible education curriculum (edibleschoolyard.org)
- **Big Green** is a network of Learning Gardens and food literacy programs (biggreen.org)



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What funding opportunities are available?

- [USDA Farm To School implementation grant](#)
- Colorado Garden Foundation: bit.ly/2HyqF53
- [AmeriCorps Vista](#)
- Federal reimbursements can be a key part of funding, including: [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\)](#), [Summer Food Service Program](#), [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#), and [School Breakfast Program](#)
- LiveWell Colorado Grants List: bit.ly/2vIBDpk
- Slow Food USA Grants List: bit.ly/2H6O8Xk
- Ag in the Classroom: bit.ly/2H8LeFJ
- Colorado Potato Industry Salad Bars into Schools [video contest](#)
- Seed donations from [Botanical Interests](#)

Additional Resources

USDA Food and Nutrition Service:

www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-resources

LiveWell Colorado:

- [School Food Initiative](#): training and technical assistance
- [Farm to School Network](#) lead for Colorado

Slow Food Denver:

- [Seed-to-Table program](#): free seeds and seedlings, workshops, Youth Farmers' Market program & general assistance
- [Garden Leader tools](#): resources for garden leaders
- [After School Enrichment](#): after school program guide
- [School Food Curriculum](#): available for download
- [In School cooking classes](#): led by Slow Food staff
- [Garden to Cafeteria](#): training and support
- [Youth Farm Stand](#) (partnership with Denver Urban Gardens): market training and supplies, [toolkit](#)



Early Care-Specific Resources

- **Cooking up Healthy Options with Plants (CHOP)**
www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/cacfp-chop
- **National Farm to School Network**
www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/early-care-and-education
- **Grow it, Try it, Like it!** www.fns.usda.gov/tn/grow-it

Denver Urban Gardens:



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- [Starting a school-based community garden](#)
- [School Garden Cultivator program](#): for volunteers
- [Helping Kids Get Healthy](#): workshops for youth educators
- [Healthy Bodies, Healthy Gardens](#): school garden curriculum
- [Youth Farm Stand](#) (partnership with Slow Food Denver) market training and supplies, [toolkit](#)

Big Green: [Garden skills and lessons](#)

Edible Schoolyard: [Resource library](#)

Chef Ann Foundation:

- [The Lunch Box](#): tools for school food change
- [Get Schools Cooking](#): scratch cooking support
- [Salad Bars to Schools](#): donation program
- [School Food Institute](#): for school nutrition professionals
- [Parent Advocacy Initiative](#): tools & resources for parents
- [Project Produce](#): fruit and vegetable grants for schools