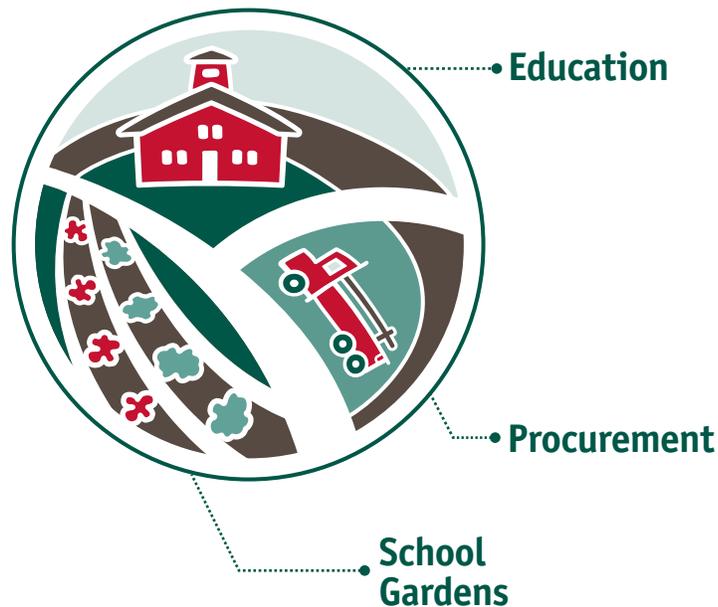




## WHAT IS farm to school?

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant 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

Farm to school benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates new jobs and strengthens the local economy.

## BY THE numbers

**42,587**

Number of schools involved\*

**23.6 million**

Number of students reached\*

**\$789 million**

Dollar amount spent on locally purchased foods\*

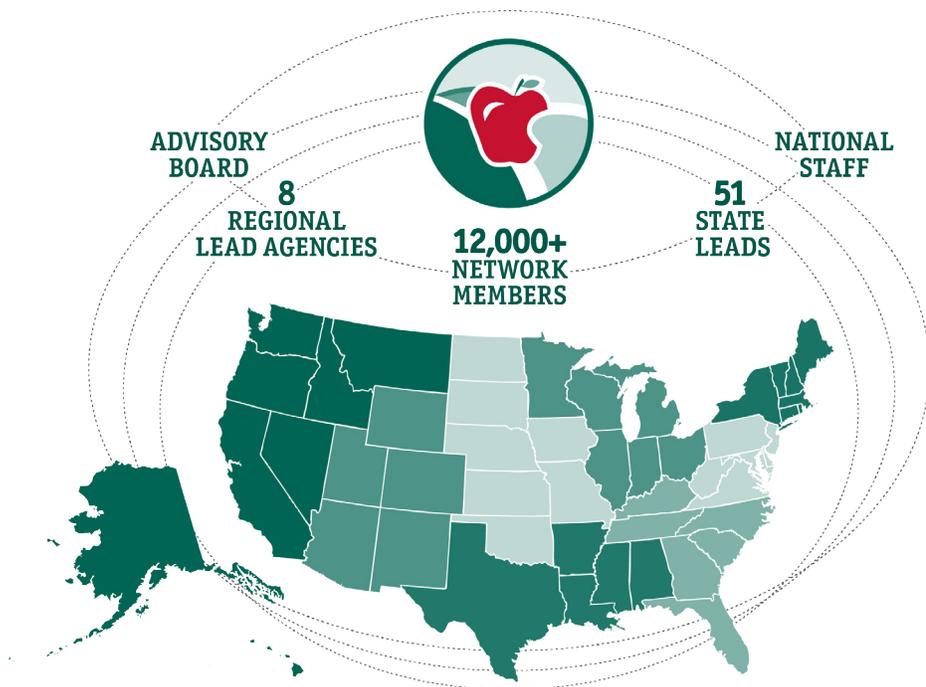
\*Estimates based on data from the USDA Farm to School Census for the 2013-2014 school year.



## WHO we are

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems and early care and education settings. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities. The National Farm to

School Network provides vision, leadership and support at the state, regional and national levels to connect and expand the farm to school movement, which has grown from a handful of schools in the late 1990s to approximately 42,000 schools in all 50 states as of 2014. Our network includes national staff, eight Regional Lead Agencies, 51 State Leads, an advisory board and thousands of farm to school supporters.



## WHAT we do

### Information

Our website is home to a large, searchable database of farm to school resources ranging from curriculum and recipes to evaluation toolkits and food safety advice. We host a webinar and trainings, and we share news and information through our monthly email newsletter and social media channels. We create and collate farm to school resources and research for use by stakeholders across the country.

### Advocacy

The National Farm to School Network is the voice for the farm to school movement and the leading resource for information about national, state and local policies that impact farm to school. We advocate for supportive policies and provide regular policy updates through our blog and newsletter. We also organize an annual public awareness campaign every October for National Farm to School Month.

### Networking

Our state and regional leads serve as the networking hub on the local level and share information, resources, needs and opportunities with their counterparts across the country. The National Farm to School Network hosts the biennial National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, which convenes a diverse group of stakeholders from across the farm to cafeteria movement.