

# 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.

## Who can help?

- **Your school district’s** health and wellness department can tell you what is already happening and how to get involved
- Sara Rose Foreman at the **Colorado Dept. of Education** ([foreman\\_s@cde.state.co.us](mailto:foreman_s@cde.state.co.us)) can help with procuring locally grown food
- Wendy White at the **Colorado Dept. of Agriculture** ([wendy.white@state.co.us](mailto:wendy.white@state.co.us)) can help farmers interested in selling to schools
- Andrea Northup, Farm to School Regional Lead for the **USDA Food and Nutrition Service** ([andrea.northup@fns.usda.gov](mailto:andrea.northup@fns.usda.gov))
- **Brighton Shares the Harvest** can assist with resources for gardens ([brightonsharestheharvest.org](http://brightonsharestheharvest.org))
- **LiveWell Colorado** has a School Food Initiative ([livewellcolorado.org](http://livewellcolorado.org))
- **Slow Food Denver** has a Seed-to-Table School Garden Program ([slowfooddenver.org](http://slowfooddenver.org))
- **Denver Urban Gardens** helps start school-based community gardens ([dug.org](http://dug.org))
- **Edible Schoolyard** has a national edible education curriculum ([edibleschoolyard.org](http://edibleschoolyard.org))
- **Big Green** is a network of Learning Gardens and food literacy programs ([biggreen.org](http://biggreen.org))



From Colorado Farm to School Task Force

## Where do we start?

- **Colorado Proud School Meal Day** is Wednesday, September 18, 2019. Visit the [Colorado Proud website](#) for more information.
- **Harvest of the Month programs** 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](http://co.foodmarketmaker.com).
- **Garden to cafeteria programs** enable school gardens to sell to the school kitchen. Check out [these resources](#) from Slow Food USA.

## Farm to School Toolkit

### What funding opportunities are available?

- [USDA Farm To School implementation grant](#)
- Colorado Garden Foundation: [bit.ly/2ZZF0hf](http://bit.ly/2ZZF0hf)
- [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](http://bit.ly/2vIBDpk)
- Ag in the Classroom: [bit.ly/2H8LeFJ](http://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](http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-resources)

#### LiveWell Colorado:

- [School Food Initiative](#): training and technical assistance

#### 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](#)

#### Denver Urban Gardens:

- [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

#### 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



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### Early Care-Specific Resources

- **Cooking up Healthy Options with Plants (CHOP)**  
[www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/cacfp-chop](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/cacfp-chop)
- **National Farm to School Network**  
[www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/early-care-and-education](http://www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/early-care-and-education)
- **Grow it, Try it, Like it!** [www.fns.usda.gov/tn/grow-it](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/grow-it)
- **Food Safety for Vegetable Gardens**  
[www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DEHS\\_IEPU\\_FoodSafetyGardens\\_Jan2018.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DEHS_IEPU_FoodSafetyGardens_Jan2018.pdf)
- **Retail Food Regulations**  
[www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DEHS\\_RetailFood\\_IM1408\\_ProduceSuppliers.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DEHS_RetailFood_IM1408_ProduceSuppliers.pdf)