



Louisiana

Farm to school is a common sense approach to child nutrition and community economic development and is uniquely designed to address the ways in which each of these rates intersects with one another through policy, programming, and partnerships. In Louisiana, the childhood obesity rate is 21.1%,¹ the food insecurity rate is 18.4%,² and the rate of students receiving free and reduced-price meals is 63.9%;³ farm to school can be used to address these issues. In addition, studies show that every dollar spent on local food can generate up to an additional \$2.16 in economic activity,⁴ indicating school districts' local food purchases can lead to over \$1 billion in local economic activity over one school year.⁵

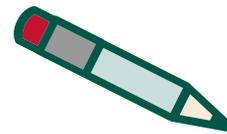
USDA Farm to School Census (School Year 2013-14) in Louisiana

The U.S. Department of Agriculture tracks farm to school activities at the state and school district level.

Louisiana invested \$10,951,500 in local foods, with the average school district spending 33% of their budget on local products.

- 35% Vegetables
- 42% Fruit
- 38% Milk
- 15% Meat or Poultry

33% of Louisiana school districts report participation in farm to school.



31 school districts



530 schools

There is demand for farm to school in Louisiana:

18% of districts surveyed plan to start farm to school activities in the future.

31% of districts surveyed plan to increase local food purchases in the future.



288,083 students



at least 54 school gardens

In Louisiana, 46% of school districts are engaging preschool children in farm to school activities, and 27% of school districts are using local foods in summer meals.

State Farm to School Network and Organizations in Louisiana



1 National Conference of State Legislatures
2 USDA Economic Research Service

3 National Center for Education Statistics
4 Upstream Public Health

5 USDA Farm to School Census



Federal Support for Louisiana Farm to School

The USDA administers the Farm to School Grant program, which has awarded the following projects in Louisiana:

2018 - Market Umbrella was awarded \$99,198 to implement farm to school programming in Orleans Parish.

2015 - The Louisiana State University AgCenter was awarded \$24,993 to host a statewide farm to school conference focusing on school-based child nutrition programs. KIPP New Orleans Schools' School Food Authority, the Healthy School Foods Collaborative (HSFC) was awarded \$45,000 to develop a plan for the implementation of a full farm to school model by researching and facilitating partnerships between all actors in the supply chain and developing best - practices based educational programming with a focus on local foods in schools.

2014 - The East Baton Rouge Parish School System was awarded \$45,000 to support farm to school activities. Firstline Schools, Inc. / Edible Schoolyard New Orleans was awarded \$100,000 to support the "Whole Child through the Garden and Cafeteria" campaign.

Between FY 2013 - FY 2018, Louisiana was awarded 5 of 24 grant requests. Funds awarded total \$314,287 of \$1,731,043 requested.

The USDA also administers grant programs that support Farm to School initiatives, such as the Farm to School Grant program and the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. These grant programs have funded projects at the Louisiana State University AgCenter that support farm to school activities.

Louisiana Farm to School Administrative Efforts

State agency and university Extension positions can support farm to school, and do in many states. The following shows FTE devoted to supporting farm to school:

Louisiana has fewer farm to school FTEs than 16 states.

Department of Education (FTE 0)	Department of Agriculture (FTE 0)
Department of Health (FTE 0)	University Extension (FTE 4)

Louisiana Enacted State Farm to School Policies

2016

S.B. 404 - Establishing a Farm to School Program
S.R. 82 & S.R. 156 - Designating Future Farmers of America Day at the Capitol

2015

H.B. 761 - Establishing an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone
S.B. 184 & S.B. 458 (2014) -Relating to the Small Purchase Threshold

2014

H.B. 825 - Establishing the Louisiana Master Garden Program License Plate
S.C.R. 41 -Requesting Tastier Food Options for the National School Lunch Program
S.C.R. 94 - Requesting a Farm to School Program

2013

S.C.R. 64 - Studying Agriculture Education in Elementary and Secondary Schools

2010

H.B. 840 - Sustainable Local Food Policy Council

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy, and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens, and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings.