

Georgia

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 Georgia, the childhood obesity rate is 16.5%,¹ the food insecurity rate is 14.9%,² and the rate of students receiving free and reduced-price meals is 62.4%;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 Georgia

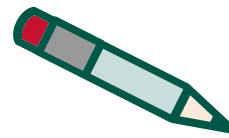
The U.S. Department of Agriculture tracks farm to school activities at the state and school district level.

Georgia invested \$40,647,400 in local foods, with the average school district spending 17% of their budget on local products.

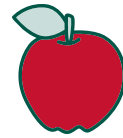
- 84% Vegetables
- 90% Fruit
- 22% Milk
- 28% Meat or Poultry

Georgia ranks 19 out of 50 states in local food purchasing.

62% of Georgia school districts report participation in farm to school.



93 school districts



1,615 schools

In Georgia, 63% of school districts are engaging preschool children in farm to school activities, and 45% of school districts are using local foods in summer meals.

There is demand for farm to school in Georgia:

19% of districts surveyed

plan to start farm to school activities in the future.

68% of districts surveyed

plan to increase local food purchases in the future.

The 2018 Golden Radish Awards

- 84 Georgia school districts received Golden Radish Awards in 2018
- 1.3 million students participated in Farm to School activities
- 1,197 School Gardens
- 61 districts include Farm to School language in policy and procedures



The Golden Radish Award honors Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in Georgia who are doing extraordinary work in Farm to School. The award is presented by the Georgia Departments of Agriculture, Education and Public Health with UGA Extension and Georgia Organics to encourage LEAs to develop comprehensive Farm to School programs.

State Farm to School Network and Organizations in Georgia





Federal Support for Georgia Farm to School

The USDA administers the Farm to School Grant program, which has awarded the funds to the following organizations in Georgia:

2018 - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (\$18,750), Georgia Department of Education (\$24,000).

2017 - Georgia Organics (\$25,000), Forsyth County Board of Education (\$91,106), Carrollton City Schools Nutrition Program (\$62,625),

2016 - Food Bank of Northeast Georgia (\$96,580).

2015 - Tift County School System(\$39,947), Georgia Organics, Inc. (\$100,000)

2014 - Georgia Department of Agriculture (\$100,000), Athens Land Trust, Inc. (\$99,700).

2013 - Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc. (\$100,000), Healthcare Central Georgia, Inc, dba Community Health Works (\$99,992), Carrollton City Schools Nutrition Department (\$30,675).

**Between FY 2013 - FY 2018, Georgia was awarded 13 of 69 grant requests.
Funds awarded total \$888,375 of \$5,283,803 requested.**

Georgia 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:

Georgia has fewer farm to school FTEs than 4 states.

Department of Education (FTE 1)	Department of Agriculture (FTE 1)
Department of Health (FTE 0.5)	University Extension (FTE 0.75)
	Department of Early Care and Learning (FTE .25)

Georgia Enacted State Farm to School Policies

<p>2017 H.R. 57 - Creating the School Nutrition Programs Study Committee S.R. 81 - Commending the Future Farmers of America and Recognizing National Future Farmers of America Week S.R. 113 - Commending the Georgia Young Farmers Association</p>	<p>2015 H.R. 423/S.R. 164 - Commending the Georgia Young Farmers Association H.R. 1206/S.R. 884 - Recognizing Georgia Agribusiness Council's Fiftieth Anniversary S.R. 136 - Commending the Future Farmers of America and Recognizing National Future Farmers of America Week</p>
<p>2016 S.R. 822 - Commending the Georgia Young Farmers Association S.R. 887 - Commending the Future Farmers of America and Recognizing National Future Farmers of America Week</p>	<p>2013 H.R. 558/S.R. 430 - Commending Farm to School Efforts</p>
	<p>2011 H.R. 589 - Commending Farm to School Efforts</p>
	<p>2009 S.B. 44 - Establishing a Local Purchasing Preference</p>

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.