



**MASSACHUSETTS
FARM TO SCHOOL**

**Farm to School 101
September 18, 2024**



Agenda

- Introduce Mass. Farm to School
- 3 C's of Farm to School
- Harvest of the Month Program
- Procurement
- School Garden Food Safety
- Professional Learning Opportunities
- Advocacy
- Resources/Questions

Today's Presenters:

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Massachusetts Farm to School

Who and what Is Massachusetts Farm To School?

Mission

Massachusetts Farm to School strengthens local farms and fisheries and promotes healthy communities by increasing local food purchasing and education at schools.

Vision

All Massachusetts schools consistently teach about and serve local foods, supporting vibrant local farming and fishing communities and healthy schools, students and families.



The “3 Cs” of Farm to School



Classroom

Farm to School education provides real-life context for learning across all disciplines inside classroom and outside in school gardens.



Cafeteria

Farm to school programs strive to show that school nutrition and the cafeteria are integral to the school day and the education of the whole student.



Community

Farm to school strengthens the community and local economy. “Local” is defined by YOU and your school community!

How does Massachusetts Farm To School operate?

- 1) Provide training and technical assistance to school food service professionals, farmers and fishermen, distributors, educators, and other advocates.
- 2) Coordinate local food outreach and promotion through our Harvest of the Month campaign
- 3) Support statewide and district-specific school food procurement
- 3) Support the networking of farm to school practitioners across Massachusetts
- 4) Provide leadership to advance policies that support expanded farm to school activity



Harvest of the Month

Harvest of the Month

- **For Educators:**

Designed specifically for the elementary and secondary classroom supports students to learn about local farming, healthy eating, and to celebrate local foods and farms, by highlighting a different locally grown crop each month.

- **For School Nutrition Programs:**

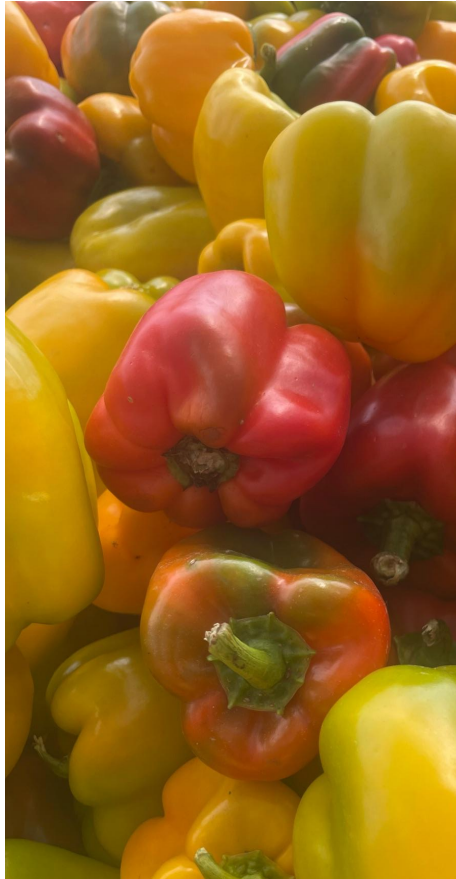
Celebrate local abundance, experiment with new foods and recipes, and get some positive recognition for your school district and/or school. Encourage healthy food choices by increasing students' exposure to seasonal foods while also supporting local farmers and building excitement about school meals



Crop Calendar

[Cafeteria Registration Form](#)

[Educator Registration Form](#)



Supporting school & district procurement

While many schools and programs want to source local, they may not know where to start. Mass. Farm to School has resources and expertise in state procurement process and relationships with farmers and distributors to support more local purchasing.

- [Local Food Map](#)
 - Searchable by product or location
- [MAPC Northeast Produce RFP](#)
 - Schools/Districts can work with one of the awarded distributors/food hubs to source produce by issuing a contract and setting up delivery schedule
 - Schools/Districts are responsible for issuing a contract under the RFP
- Support with procurement solicitations & 3 Quote process

Recognizing & Amplifying Exceptional F2S in Massachusetts

Kale Blazer Award:

Our Annual Kale Blazer award recognizes an individual or group of individuals who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in farm to school activity in Massachusetts.

Terrific Tray Competition:

New in 2023-24 school year, Mass. Farm to School launched the Terrific Tray competition held monthly to celebrate the local offerings on fabulous school lunch trays across the Commonwealth.



School Garden Food Safety



Webster Public Schools Students enjoyed the bounty from their school gardens during lunch in May & June 2024.

[School Garden Food Safety Manual](#)

[School Garden Food Safety Webinar](#)

Professional Learning



Prospect Hill Academy 9th graders preparing food during their field trip to The Farm School in Athol, MA in Spring 2024.

- [Annual professional learning calendar](#)
- [MFTS Institute](#)
- [SEEDS program](#)
- [Podcast on FTS Northeast](#)
- [HOTM newsletters](#)
- [Curriculum/classroom lessons](#)



Farm to School is a comprehensive strategy with a goal of helping students establish lifelong positive relationships with food while supporting a more just food system. The strategies used to achieve this shift include:

serving healthy local food in schools,

improving student nutrition,

providing hands-on food systems learning opportunities,

developing meaningful relationships between community partners, schools and students.

The Massachusetts Farm to School Institute is a year-long professional learning opportunity for a select number of school/district teams from across Massachusetts that works to support school teams to achieve these goals and more!

Learn more here: [Mass Farm to School Institute](#)

SEEDS

“The SEEDS: Building Your Farm to School Team” is an introductory program designed for schools that would like to build an integrated and thriving farm to school program. This program will help you identify individuals across your school-wide community to support local food sourcing and education efforts. Participants will finish the year well positioned to attend the Mass Farm to School Institute in the next school year.

Quarterly virtual meetings will provide you with support to build your FTS team.

Apply to the 2024-2025 cohort [here](#).



Northampton Public School holds a local crop taste test in the cafeteria..

Funding Opportunity: MA FRESH



Students at ABCD Head Start Planting Day in Dorchester in June 2024

MA FRESH (*Farming Reinforces Education and Student Health*) due October 11, 2024

- Statewide farm to school and farm to early education grant program
 - Administered by the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)'s Office for Food and Nutrition Programs
- Approximately \$500,000 is available with awards of up to **\$30,000 per applicant**
- Project activities must be completed by **June 30, 2025**
- **Application can be found on [DESE's website](#).**
- **Access the [MA FRESH info session recordings](#).**

MA FRESH Grant funding can not be used to continue existing activities. Applicants must demonstrate that funds will be utilized to initiate or expand f2s activities.

Sign up for our newsletter to stay current!

Mass. Farm to School -
www.massfarmtoschool.org

Subscribe to our newsletter
and stay up to date on
upcoming webinars and
other professional learning
opportunities.



Students at Bridge Boston working in their new school garden with Green City Growers, Spring 2023

STAY IN TOUCH!



Pre-K Students from Assonet Child Development Center tend to their plants in their new school garden, Spring 2023.

Visit us online:

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[New Photos for Presentation/s]



Assonet



Bridge Boston



Medway Public



Northampton Public



Northampton Public



Northampton Public



Rainbow



Rainbow



Rainbow

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Shaloh



Springfield

