



California Farm to School Network Values and Principles

The California Farm to School Network (CFSN) is a communications hub and a convener across many organizations and regions in the state. The CFSN aligns Farm to School efforts, shares resources, and bring farmers, schools, distributors, and practitioners together, supporting California's leadership in the Farm to School movement.

The CFSN's *mission* is to bring together a diverse set of stakeholders that promote and create opportunities to connect schools with their local farms in the classroom, the cafeteria, and the community.

We envision a California where all schools teach about and provide access to healthy, locally-grown food, creating future generations of healthy children and economically vibrant farms.

As the Farm to School movement has grown throughout the state and nation, the CFSN feels it is important to ensure that the work is grounded in values and principles that reflect the changes we are trying to make in the food system.

Values Statement:

The CA Farm to School Network believes that Farm to School can build a stronger, more equitable local food system for California farmers, workers, and children. We are creating a foundation for healthy food, healthy people, healthy economies, and a healthy environment across California communities. We commit to fostering strong links between families and farmers that grow beyond the school year. Farm to School integrates local agriculture and nutrition into all facets of the school, including the classroom, school gardens, the cafeteria, and the broader community. Sustainable and healthy food benefits us all with lower food miles, better health, and environmentally sustainable and vibrant communities.

Farm to School Principles:

- Farm to School provides **holistic connections** between farms and schools via the cafeteria, classroom, garden and community.
- Farm to School creates a **transparent, values-based supply chain** from farm to cafeteria.
- Farm to School supports **thriving California farmers** so that they can earn living wages and pay their employees living wages, **strengthening** regional food systems.
- Farm to School supports **all farmers**, especially **socially disadvantaged, beginning, small, and mid-sized growers**.

- Farm to School **develops the next generation of farmers** through creating pipelines for agricultural careers and inspiring students to feed our local communities.
- Farm to School prioritizes **sustainable practices on farms** that lessen agriculture's environmental impact and conserve resources for future generations.
- Farm to School offers a tool to advance **social justice** for workers, farmers and along the entire supply chain.
- Farm to School means **a garden in every school**.
- Farm to School means building a foundation of **health and wellness throughout the community** by developing healthy people, healthy food, healthy agriculture and healthy ecosystems.
- Farm to School ensures concepts such as health, nutrition, and agriculture are **integrated into academic standards** and come to life through garden and nutrition education.
- Farm to School supports the economic viability of family farmers while also striving for **affordability** for schools.
- Farm to School encourages students and families to **eat local, fresh, seasonal, and healthy food from farms** at school and in the home.
- Farm to School **minimizes waste** through composting, reducing packaging, and reducing food miles.
- Farm to School links students to where all of their food comes from – across the **whole plate**.

The California Farm to School Network is a project of Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) and Urban Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI).

