Farm to early care and education (ECE) incorporates the three core elements of local procurement, gardens, and food and agriculture education to advance health and wellbeing, engage families and communities, and enhance the quality of the ECE setting.

In the 2018 survey, we heard from:

- **2,030** ECE sites
- **255,257** young children
- **46** states

Farm to ECE is reaching far and wide:

- **49%** of respondents are already participating
- **34%** of participating sites serve more than 50% low-income children
- **33%** of participating sites have been practicing farm to ECE for 5+ years

And ready to grow:

- **30%** plan to start farm to ECE in the next year
- **54%** plan to increase local food purchasing

What does farm to ECE look like?

The most frequently reported farm to ECE activities align with the core elements of farm to ECE and include:

- **76%** Education
- **75%** Gardening
- **69%** Procurement

Educators and providers see the difference:

- **85%** of providers report these reasons for farm to ECE as “very important”

And so do children, families, and staff:

- **82%** Children
- **73%** Parents
- **62%** ECE staff

Farm to ECE promotes life-long healthy habits and offers vital educational opportunities for children in all types of ECE settings from diverse racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Incorporating the three core elements of procurement, gardening, and food and agriculture education creates benefits for kids, farmers, and communities.

Learn more about farm to ECE and the National Farm to School Network at [www.farmtoschool.org/ECE](http://www.farmtoschool.org/ECE). Find out more about regional food systems from Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems at [www.foodsystems.msu.edu](http://www.foodsystems.msu.edu).