



Evaluation for Transformation: Sectoral Brief

Community Economic Development

Community Economic Development and Farm to School

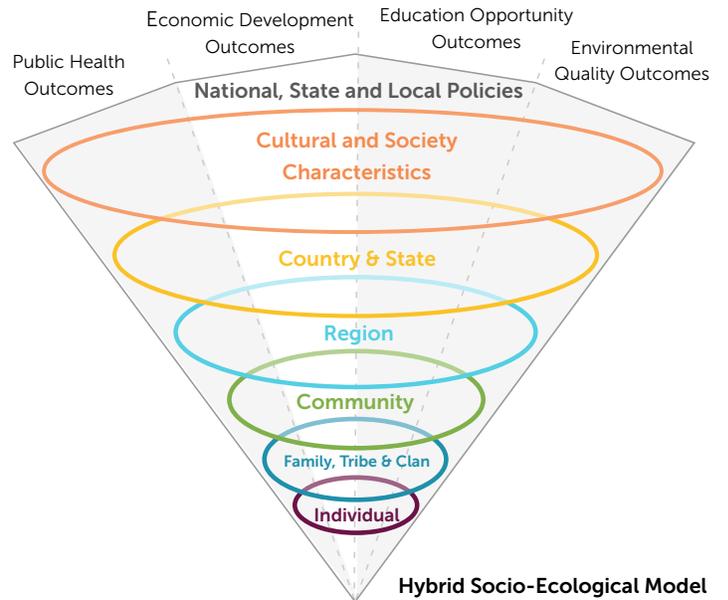
This sectoral brief accompanies *Evaluation for Transformation: A Cross Sectoral Evaluation Framework for Farm to School*, focusing on the community economic development linkages with farm to school / farm to preschool. Farm to school efforts may create new economic opportunities for local and regional producers who may otherwise face barriers to the traditional food system, such as lower income individuals, women, people of color, those in rural areas and those limited by size or scale. Farm to school provides opportunities to explore equity-related considerations in the food system, such as living wages, professional development, safe working conditions and equal marketing opportunities. Key economic outcomes include:

- Increasing purchase of local foods by school districts and early child care centers.
- Encouraging market diversification including opportunities to expand operations.
- Providing job, income or skill expansion in the local food system.
- Establishing and expanding deeper relationships between producers, buyers, learners and educators.

CORE ELEMENTS OF FARM to SCHOOL



The core elements of farm to school and farm to preschool include: procurement of local and regional food products, gardening and education (food and farm related).



Farm to school activities can support economic development outcomes at multiple levels of the socio-ecological model.

- **National, State and Local Policies:** Lenders make loans for producers to meet local food demand. State procurement policies allow school districts and other public institutions to prioritize local food purchases.
- **Cultural and Society Characteristics:** It is expected that local foods are readily available in school meals and communities.
- **Region, County and State:** Training for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification is available to all growers. Institutional food distributors carry more local products.
- **Community:** Parents request local foods at grocery stores; grocery stores increase the percentage of local foods available.
- **Family, Tribe and Clan:** Families visit farmers' markets and purchase from producers who supply their schools.
- **Individual:** People buy local food and know where it comes from, due to farm to school activities.

What the Evaluation Framework Offers

The evaluation framework is intended to be a resource for farm to school planning, evaluation, research, reporting. The framework categorizes priority outcomes for community economic development by program, research and policy levels. Example priority outcomes, indicators and measures for each level are provided (refer to document for full listing).

The evaluation framework also provides:

- Common language on farm to school core and supplemental elements, touch points and actors.
- A comprehensive literature review of farm to school and farm to preschool outcomes in four sectors (public health, community economic development, education and environmental quality).
- Guidance on program articulation and tools to track implementation.
- Lists of implementation and evaluation tools.



Evaluation for Transformation: A Cross Sectoral Evaluation Framework for Farm to School was developed as a collaborative project led by the National Farm to School Network, funded in part by the Aetna Foundation.

To download the evaluation framework or to provide feedback, visit www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/evaluation-framework

The **National Farm to School Network** is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into schools and preschools.



Program Outcome 1: Local and Regional Economic Impact	Research Outcome 1: Local and Regional Economic Impact
<p>Indicator: Increase in market opportunities/income generation for local producers, processors and distributors through sales to school districts and potentially to other institutions through procurement activity.</p> <p>Measure 1: Total dollar amount of all local products purchased by school districts and schools</p> <p>Measure 2: Percentage of total food budget spent on local foods by school districts and schools</p> <p>Measure 3: Type, quantity and monetary value of processed foods purchased by school districts and schools</p> <p>Measure 4: Percentage of sales to local society of school districts and schools</p>	<p>Indicator: Increase in market opportunities and income generation for local producers, processors and distributors through sales to schools and possibly other institutions.</p> <p>Measure 1: Number, demographics (i.e., gender, ethnicity, age) and type of local producers, processors and distributors supplying local products to school districts</p> <p>Measure 2: Number and type of local products distributors offer to schools</p> <p>Measure 3: Number and demographics of food producers, processors and distributors that change business plans due to farm to school demand</p>
Policy Outcome 1: Institutional Support for Local and Regional Foods	
<p>Indicator 1: Institutional procurement policies supporting local and regional foods</p> <p>Measure 1.1: The number of institutional procurement policies with supportive language</p> <p>Measure 1.2: The number of state local procurement policies with supportive language</p> <p>Measure 1.3: Government agency allocation of resources and creation of programs, grants and positions for farm to school</p> <p>Measure 1.4: Government programs that provide community food project grants to support local and regional foods, including farm to school efforts</p>	

Program outcome example

- Outcome: Local and regional economic impact.
- Indicator: Increase in market opportunities/income generation for local producers, processors and distributors through sales to school districts and potentially to other institutions through procurement activity.
- Measure: Total dollar amount of all local products purchased by school districts and schools.

Research outcome example

- Outcome: Local and regional economic impact.
- Indicator: Increase in market opportunities/income generation for local producers, processors and distributors through sales to school and possibly other institutions.
- Measure: Number, demographics (i.e. gender, ethnicity, age) and type of local producers, processors and distributors supplying local products to school districts.

Policy outcome example

- Outcome: Institutional support for local and regional foods.
- Indicator: Institutional procurement policies supporting local and regional foods.
- Measure: The number of institutional procurement policies with supportive language.