



Evaluation for Transformation: Sectoral Brief

Education

Education and Farm to School

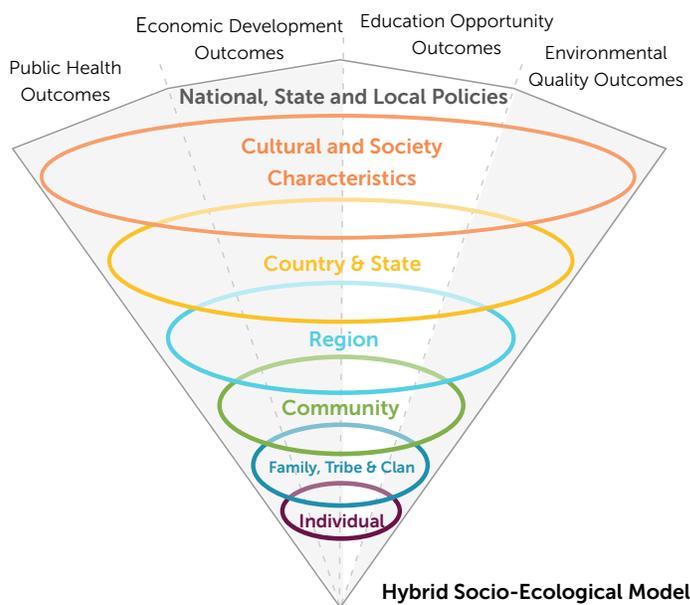
This sectoral brief accompanies *Evaluation for Transformation: A Cross Sectoral Evaluation Framework for Farm to School*, focusing on the education linkages with farm to school / farm to preschool. Participants can review their farm, food, project based and garden based activities as a means to improve student academic achievement and education of the “whole child”. Examples of how farm to school can support education include:

- Enhancing the physical and social learning environments for teaching core content such as math, language arts, health, science and geography while also supporting youth skill development.
- Increasing student knowledge of specific content areas.
- Supporting children’s development of learning skills and social or emotional development.
- Engaging parents or caregivers through field trips, gardening, food preparation homework.

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 education outcomes at multiple levels of the socio-ecological model.

- **National, State and Local Policies:** Legislation prioritizes a whole-child approach, supports hands-on learning and gardening at schools.
- **Cultural and Society Characteristics:** Farm to school is one part of supporting the whole child in educational settings.
- **Region, Country and State:** School district policies support school gardens. Farm to school curriculum is readily available and aligned to Common Core standards.
- **Community:** Hands-on activities included at farmers’ markets and community centers to engage children and families.
- **Family, Tribe and Clan:** The family incorporates hands-on experiences such as cooking or gardening to support student learning about food at home.
- **Individual:** Student forms positive attitudes and self-efficacy about learning through 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 education 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.



<p>Program Outcome 1: Farm to school activities are aligned to Early Learning Framework, the Common Core, or state content standards to support student engagement and learning.</p> <p>Indicator 1: Sites offer a range of learning opportunities aligned to support learning skills, and content areas such as service learning, community connections, inquiry-based learning, experiential learning and hands-on field experiences related to food.</p> <p>Measure 1: Number of teachers using food system or gardening curriculum aligned to Early Learning Framework, Common Core or state-adopted content standards</p> <p>Measure 2: Number of students participating in farm to school activities aligned to Early Learning Framework, Common Core or state-adopted content standards</p> <p>Measure 3: Number of school-based gardens with Common Core or state-adopted content standards</p>	<p>Research Outcome 1: Farm to school activities support student educational success</p> <p>Indicator 1: Student readiness to learn</p> <p>Measure 1.1: Student participation in school breakfast programs when farm to school activities are conducted with breakfast</p> <p>Indicator 2: Student engagement and academic behaviors</p> <p>Measure 2.1: Changes in classroom attendance numbers or consistency during farm to school activity days or modules</p>
<p>Policy Outcome 1: Education policy and programs support farm to school activities</p> <p>Indicator 1: Education agencies allocate resources to support farm to school programming</p> <p>Measure 1.1: State legislatures provide funding to create farm to school positions, programs, grants or other resources to support farm to school activities</p> <p>Indicator 2: Teachers, child care educators, foodservice workers, students and producers are trained in farm to school education and gardening activities</p> <p>Measure 2.1: Increase in professional development programs for teachers, foodservice workers and growers that include farm to school activities</p>	

Program outcome example

- Outcome: Farm to school activities are aligned to Early Learning Framework, the Common Core, or state content standards to support student engagement and learning.
- Indicator: Sites offer a range of learning opportunities aligned to support learning skills and content areas such as service learning, community connections, inquiry-based learning and hands-on field experiences to food.
- Measure: Number of teachers using food system or gardening curriculum aligned to Early Learning Framework, Common Core or state-adopted content standards.

Research outcome example

- Outcome: Farm to school activities support student educational success.
- Indicator: Student readiness to learn.
- Measure: Student participation in school breakfast programs when farm to school activities are conducted with breakfast

Policy outcome example

- Outcome: Education policy and programs support farm to school activities.
- Indicator: Education agencies allocate resources to support farm to school programming.
- Measure: State legislature provides funding to create farm to school positions, grants or other resources to support farm to school activities.