



Evaluation for Transformation: Sectoral Brief

Environmental Quality

Environmental Quality and Farm to School

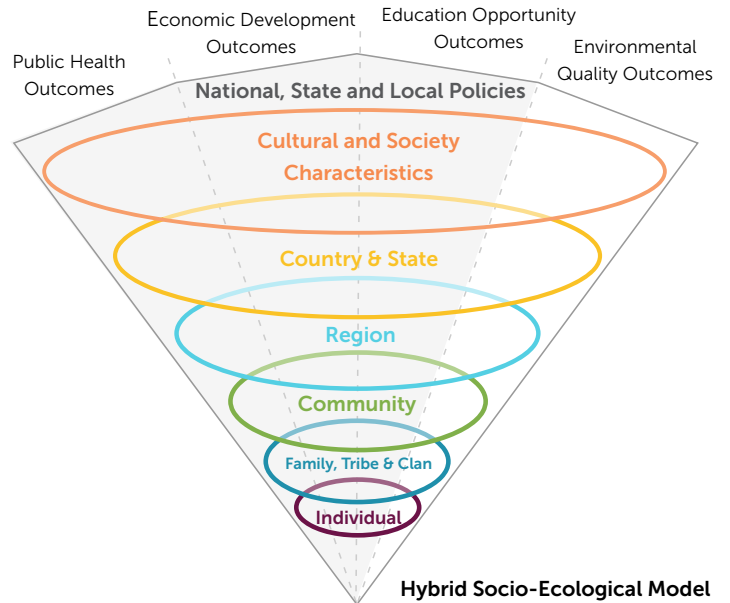
This sectoral brief accompanies *Evaluation for Transformation: A Cross Sectoral Evaluation Framework for Farm to School*, focusing on the environmental quality linkages with farm to school / farm to preschool. Participants can observe how core farm to school elements and activities can help children learn an environmental ethic, how schools create new community “greenspace” infrastructure for healthy environments, and how schools buy local or regional foods produced to reduce potential negative environmental impacts. Examples of how farm to school activities link to environmental quality include:

- Encouraging children to learn environmental attitudes and behaviors.
- Creating green-spaces such as gardens and naturoscapes.
- Supporting producers who help steward natural environments.

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 environmental quality outcomes at multiple levels of the socio-ecological model.

- **National, State and Local Policies:** Policies support gardens at every school in the state.
- **Cultural and Society Characteristics:** Increase demand for local foods that are also sustainably produced.
- **Region, Country and State:** Producers increase agricultural innovations to reduce environmental impact.
- **Community:** School districts use integrated pest management policies to maintain their school grounds with less chemicals.
- **Family, Tribe and Clan:** Increase purchase of foods produced with less chemicals.
- **Individual:** Students learn to grow food in a garden using environmentally supportive methods such as composting.

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 environmental quality 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.



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| <p>Program Outcome 1: Students are environmentally literate through engagement in farm to school activities.</p> <p>Indicator 1: Increase in student knowledge about the relationship between the environment and food systems, including environmental impacts of food production, processing, distribution, and waste or composting.</p> <p>Measure 1: Number of children, at what grades, for what length of time, are receiving what type of lessons on environmental concepts connected to food system?</p> <p>Measure 2: Types of curriculum aligned with Core to food systems</p> <p>Measure 3: Number of children, at what grades, for environmentally responsible behaviors or recycling</p> | <p>Research Outcome 1: School supports environmentally friendly practices</p> <p>Indicator 1: School district purchase of sustainably produced foods</p> <p>Measure 1.1: Quantity purchased and amount spent on local foods that are also third-party eco-label certified foods</p> <p>Measure 1.2: Producers track and provide measures to school or district about other environmental production practices for foods schools buy that are not third party certified, such as integrated pest management, multi-cropping or equifer restoration plantings</p> <p>Indicator 2: Reduction in cafeteria waste</p> |
| <p>Policy Outcome 1: Institutional Support for Local, Sustainable Foods</p> <p>Indicator 1: Institutional procurement policies and programs that encourage purchase of, allocate resources to developing, or create infrastructure that encourages the markets for sustainable products that are also local.</p> <p>Measure 1.1: The number of school district procurement policies that set goals or other support for purchase of local products that are sustainable</p> <p>Measure 1.2: Reporting on progress the school district makes on implementing and attaining goals related to local and sustainable product purchases</p> <p>Measure 1.3: The number of state or tribal procurement policies with goals or other support for purchase of sustainable, local products</p> | <p>g waste reduction programs or are</p> |

Program outcome example

- Outcome: Students are environmentally literate through engagement in farm to school activities.
- Indicator: Increase in student knowledge about the relationship between the environment and food systems, including environmental impacts of food production, processing, distribution and waste or composition.
- Measure: Number of children, at what grades, for what length of time, are receiving what type of lessons on environmental concepts connected to food systems and/or school gardening.

Research outcome example

- Outcome: School supports environmentally friendly practices.
- Indicator: School district purchase of sustainably produced foods.
- Measure: Quantity purchase and amount spent on local foods that are also third-party eco-label certified foods.

Policy outcome example

- Outcome: Institutional support for local, sustainable foods.
- Indicator: Institutional procurement policies and programs that encourage purchase of, allocate resources to developing, or create infrastructure that encourages the markets for sustainable products that are also local.
- Measure: The number of school district procurement policies that set goals or other support for purchase of local products that are sustainable.