



Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative

In September 2017, a small group of state agencies and organizations convened for the first time at Arkansas Children's Research Institute to discuss collaborating and moving farm to school forward in the state. This group became known as the Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative in 2018. In late 2019, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture became the facilitator of the Collaborative. The Collaborative members meet bi-monthly to share updates and work together on projects that increase the opportunity for engagement in farm to school in the state.

Vision

The Collaborative envisions a future for Arkansas in which every school and community provides a healthy environment for every child. It foresees leaders at every level who have developed supportive policies and programs, effective marketing, and streamlined communication and procurement processes to make farm to school an integrated cultural norm. As a result, Arkansas children no longer struggle with obesity, schools and school gardens are seen as community assets, Arkansas growers are sustainable, supported, and more abundant, and every Arkansan has greater access to good health, a vibrant community, economic prosperity, a clean environment, and social justice.

Long Term Goal

100 percent of schools in Arkansas will have the opportunity to participate in farm to school by 2025.

- Schools: K-12 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments.
- Participate: provide programming/activity one time per year.

Guiding Principles

Trust and Transparency
Continuous Evolution
Appreciative Collaboration
Justice & Equity
Sustainable Resource Stewardship

For more information, and to sign up for the bi-weekly newsletter visit arfarmentoschool.org.

