



# Arkansas Farm to School Institute **2025-26 COACHES NEEDED**



## WHAT IS THE FARM TO SCHOOL INSTITUTE?

The Arkansas Farm to School Institute is a year-long professional learning opportunity for fifteen Arkansas schools to bring more locally grown foods into school cafeterias, classrooms, and communities during the 2025-2026 school year. The Institute offers a direct opportunity to improve the health of students, strengthen relationships between local farms and schools, and improve the local food system and economy through the growth of local procurement and agriculture education at schools.

### 2025-2026 Coaches Needed

Coaches and mentors are needed for the 2025-2026 Institute. With the support of a coach, teams spend the school year putting their plans into action and strengthening their capacity to impact classrooms, cafeterias, and communities, with change that lasts. We are looking for coaches with experience in or passion for local agriculture, gardening, and bringing the farm to school.

**Key features of  
the Arkansas  
Farm to School  
Institute include:**

- A three-day kickoff retreat in July 2025
- Bi-monthly workshops for school teams
- A farm to school action plan development and implementation award
- Coaching and peer networking for one year
- A celebratory spring 2026 gathering



The Institute aims to support Arkansas schools by increasing access to fresh, healthy, and locally produced food while also educating students about the importance of agriculture and nutrition while strengthening their local food system.

## Benefits Of Participating

**Attend our Summer Retreat:** The summer retreat will be held in July. Coaches and teams will develop a school-wide farm to school action plan that integrates curriculum, local procurement, and community connections.

### Benefits

**Compensation:** Coaches will be contracted for the 2025-2026 school year and can earn up to \$3,000 (40 hours of technical assistance at \$75/ hour).

**Provide Mentorship:** Coaches will share knowledge and expertise with teams by facilitating communication and meetings as they implement and adapt action plans to meet the changing needs of their school.

**Networking:** Individuals and teams share innovations and challenges, join in dialogue, and share with others across the state throughout the Institute experience.

### Commitment

**Coaches Onboarding Session:** Meet all the coaches and understand the coach role.

**Coordinate Meetings:** Coordinate planning meetings with your team and engage with groups throughout the school year.

**Retreat Facilitation:** Support a school team by facilitating the action planning process and sharing your expertise with a school team at the Institute summer retreat.

**Coaching:** Coach a school team throughout the 2025-2026 school year by providing approximately 40 hours of perspective/ advice, tools, resources, and connections.

**Reporting:** Participate in the evaluation of the Institute by submitting brief updates on the school's progress throughout the school year.

[arfarmtoschool.org](http://arfarmtoschool.org) 



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