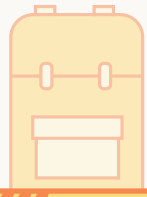


2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey

Growing Healthy Futures for All Children

Farm to early care and education (ECE) incorporates the three core elements of local procurement, gardens, and food and agriculture education to advance health and wellbeing, engage families and communities, and enhance the quality of the ECE setting.

In the 2018 survey, we heard from:



2,030
ECE sites

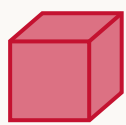
serving
255,257
young children

in
46
states



Farm to ECE is reaching far and wide:

And ready to grow:



49%
of respondents
are already
participating



34%
of participating sites
serve more than
50% low-income
children



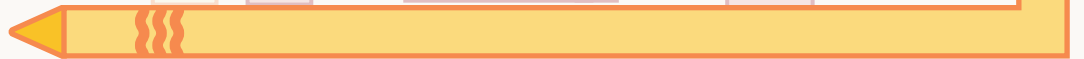
30%
plan to start
farm to ECE in
the next year



54%
plan to increase
local food
purchasing



33%
of participating sites
have been practicing farm
to ECE for 5+ years



What does farm to ECE look like?

The most frequently reported farm to ECE activities align with the core elements of farm to ECE and include:



76%
Education



75%
Gardening



69%
Procurement

Educators and providers see the difference:

85% of providers report these reasons for farm to ECE as "very important"



Food education



Fresh food



Economy & community



82%
Children



73%
Parents



Parents & families



Local farmers



Children's health



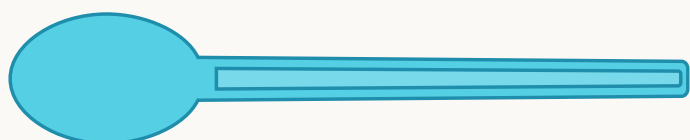
Experiential learning



Learning standards



62%
ECE staff



Farm to ECE promotes life-long healthy habits and offers vital educational opportunities for children in all types of ECE settings from diverse racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Incorporating the three core elements of procurement, gardening, and food and agriculture education creates benefits for kids, farmers, and communities.

Learn more about farm to ECE and the National Farm to School Network at www.farmtoschool.org/ECE. Find out more about regional food systems from Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems at www.foodsystems.msu.edu.



NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Center for
Regional Food Systems