

# San Diego County Farm to School Taskforce

## WHO WE ARE

In 2010, the F2S Taskforce was launched in cooperation with Whole Foods Market. The San Diego County Farm to School Taskforce (F2S Taskforce) is a subcommittee of the San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative, a project facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners.

The vision of the F2S Taskforce is that all San Diego County school children enjoy healthy foods that maximize seasonal and local products and bolster student achievement and wellness. Its membership includes school, business, and public health leaders, who are actively working in collaboration to increase consumption of local, healthy, seasonal foods and to improve food literacy within schools.

## WHAT WE DO

The F2S Taskforce has set six strategic goals for accomplishing its mission:

1. Educate F2S stakeholders about connections between regional food systems and student health and well-being
2. Foster collaboration among F2S stakeholders
3. Increase local food procurement among San Diego County school districts
4. Expand F2S programming in San Diego County school districts
5. Promote San Diego County F2S activities through the media
6. Encourage F2S opportunities through policy change

In 2014-2015, its membership agreed to support active implementation of its goals through the following:

- Farm visit
- Presentations on evidence-based or emerging F2S best practices
- Adoption of Harvest of the Month (HOTM), including a shared HOTM calendar, shared purchasing schedule, and pilot HOTM-related nutrition education in classrooms in districts committed to HOTM sourcing
- Provide education for growers about the school market
- Host the annual "Let's Go Local!" Produce Showcase
- Conduct the annual farm to school survey
- Create individual district profiles & case studies to share information districts' F2S activities & opportunities
- Explore opportunities to expand and localize DoD Fresh, USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program, and other preexisting programs to help districts source more fresh, local produce in school meals

The F2S Taskforce meets on a bimonthly basis to provide an opportunity for growers, school districts, distributors, and other farm to school stakeholders to network, share best practices, promote peer-to-peer education, identify and develop common solutions, and leverage resources.

## F2S Taskforce Multi-Tiered Definition of "Local"

- **San Diego:** Grown or raised within San Diego County
- **Regional:** Grown or raised within 250 miles of San Diego County boundary and within California
- **California:** Grown or raised within California

The F2S Taskforce has crafted its multi-tiered definition for local foods based on accuracy, simplicity and feasibility, with an awareness of the need for clear communication between farm to school stakeholders.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Anyone who is interested in furthering farm to school activities in San Diego County may participate in the F2S Taskforce. Current participants include local growers, school food service professionals, public health professionals, distributors, chefs, restaurateurs, grocery stores, and other key stakeholders.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Attend a bimonthly meeting. Typically, F2S Taskforce meetings are scheduled one month out and are held immediately before the San Diego County School Food Service Director meetings.

To learn more about the F2S Taskforce and inquire about the next meeting date, contact:

JuliAnna Arnett

San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative, a project facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners

858.609.7962 | [jarnett@sdchip.org](mailto:jarnett@sdchip.org) | [www.OurCommunityOurKids.org](http://www.OurCommunityOurKids.org)



COMMUNITY HEALTH  
IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS  
*making a difference together*