Enhance the health of Georgia’s children and communities by increasing the consumption and awareness of fresh, nutritious, locally grown foods.

The Georgia Farm to School Program connects schools and local farmers for the purpose of:

- Serving healthy meals in schools that include locally grown, raised, and produced foods;
- Increasing children’s understanding of agriculture, health, and nutrition through experiential education;
- Utilizing school gardens to teach core subjects linked to state and national standards;
- Supporting Georgia farmers by expanding local markets;
- Educating children and creating healthy eating environments; and
- Helping children develop healthy lifelong eating habits.

The collective impact of 12 Georgia Farm to School Alliance members working together for school year 2017-2018 is summarized in this report. In short:

- 73% of reporting Georgia Farm to School Alliance members provided grants, awards, incentives, technical assistance, and educational resources to 510 Georgia School Nutrition professionals, administrators, parents, educators, farmers, distributors, and community members to support farm to school efforts.
- Members presented at, provided content for, or attended over 321 events that included Farm to School content.
Economic Impact

110 independent, private and public schools or school districts reported over $24 million in local purchases. With 55% of Georgia’s school public districts self-reporting local or Georgia Grown food item purchases, it is that $24 million is an underestimate and Georgia’s School Nutrition programs are making significant contributions to the state’s food economy.*

Farm to School Program Activities

1.3+ million students engaged in farm to school activities.

98 school systems connected with 124 local agricultural producers at the Department of Agriculture’s 4th annual Farm to Table Source Show.

26 Georgia SHAPE Grantees received $114,000 to enhance physical activity and nutrition education including farm to school activities.

- 14 schools had farm to school/school gardens as a nutrition priority
- 11 schools had taste tests as a nutrition priority
- 17,000 students were impacted

UGA Extension provided technical assistance to 12,356 school gardeners

12,000+ students were read to by Georgia Grown Farm to School.

84 school districts received a Golden Radish Award for doing extraordinary work in farm to school because they believe in educating students about agriculture and food systems, keeping school nutrition dollars in the community and providing high quality local food.

$65,000 Specialty Crop Block Grant awarded to the Georgia Department of Agriculture to support 60 school systems with kitchen equipment to process, display, and serve Georgia produce.

7 student-developed recipes that include Georgia grown products competed in the 2nd annual Georgia Department of Education Student Chef Cooking Competition. Georgia’s 1st place team won the first Southeast Region Jr. Chef Competition

Georgia students engaged in hands-on experiential learning in 1,197 school gardens. Garden-based nutrition education is a proven tool for getting kids to try and prefer fresh fruits and vegetables.*
### In the Cafeteria, Classroom, and Community

As reported by 2018 Golden Radish Award winners and Committee members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115,924,690</td>
<td>meals featuring locally grown food served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61,297</td>
<td>standards-based farm to school lessons taught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,013</td>
<td>taste tests offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,151</td>
<td>collective days when local food was served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,547</td>
<td>Georgia Grown Test Kitchen recipes served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,489</td>
<td>farmer visits and farm field trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>food preparation and hands-on cooking activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>farm to school activities engaged community members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>professional development trainings included Farm to School information for school staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Georgia Schools purchased food exclusively from local farmers for Feed my School for a Week celebrations and/or for Georgia Grown Test Kitchen recipe preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Forward-thinking Georgia school districts included farm to school language in a district wide policies and/or procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Georgia school districts received Shake It Up in School Nutrition recognition for enhancing their school nutrition program, including implementing farm to school activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Georgia Farm to School Alliance Members

2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

Action for Healthy Kids
Alliance for a Healthier Generation
Captain Planet Foundation
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Strong4Life
Georgia Department of Agriculture
Georgia Department of Education
Georgia Department of Public Health
Georgia Health Policy Center
Georgia Farm Bureau
Georgia FCCLA
Georgia FFA Association
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Organics
Georgia School Nutrition Association
Royal Food Service
HealthMPowers
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
University of Georgia, Crop and Soil Sciences
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Southeast

Photo Caption
Page 1: Children in the Garden, Burke County Public School System
Page 2: “This Garden is Served by UGA”, Carroll County Schools
Page 3: Student harvesting collard greens, Sumter County Schools
Page 4: Student with school lunch tray, Bleckley County School District

*Citation
Page 2: “110... reported over $24 million in local purchases” Friedman, M. Georgia Department of Agriculture, SY 17-18 2020 Vision Recording Tool Consolidated Data 4th Qtr. Personal Communication, April 22, 2019.

Page 2: “Garden-based nutrition education is a proven tool”
https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/nutrition-gardening-interventions-increase-vegetable-consumption-among-children

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