The Farm to School Leadership Team Agreement

In April 2011, 11 people from organizations engaged in Farm to School efforts were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the benefits of a statewide team. They agreed to work together. This document comprises a team agreement as a basis for shared leadership, responsibility, and accountability.

Charter Members

Melissa Anderson, Minnesota School Nutrition Association
JoAnne Berkenkamp, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Tikki Brown, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Adam Czech, USDA Rural Development
Kathy Draeger, Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
Paul Hugunin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Deb Lukkonen, Minnesota Department of Education
Helene Murray, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
Alison Rotel, Blue Cross Blue Shield
Lisa Gemlo, Minnesota Department of Health
Stephanie Heim, University of Minnesota Extension

PURPOSE

Fostering a spirit of collaboration to support Farm to School efforts in Minnesota

Through this collaboration we will:

• Build a strong foundation for innovative approaches to increase the use of locally grown products in our schools thus contributing to healthier children and a stronger Minnesota economy.
• Facilitate a rich pooling of ideas and resources that can result in more effective communication and ultimately positive results that could not be done by any one partner, all while reducing the burden of leadership on any single entity.
• Build upon unprecedented success of past collaborations that we anticipate will lead to successes not seen in any other state.
• Optimize the current fiscal realities of our economy and the ever evolving resource allocation priorities offering new opportunities that are best executed through strong partnerships.
• Support innovation at the local level and embrace respectful, transparent communication with Minnesota communities.

We believe Minnesota has a vibrant future ahead for Farm to School and we acknowledge that partner priorities may change and new partners and leaders will emerge as the work evolves. We recognize that by partnering, we provide a state level platform of collaboration to achieve shared goals.

MISSION

The Farm to School Leadership Team works through partnerships across Minnesota to build Farm to School initiatives that help kids eat healthy, support nearby farmers, foster economic vitality, and strengthen communities.