

School Wellness Policy: Farm to School

As part of the Johnson County's School Nutrition Program, the district Wellness Program will encompass the "Farm to School" initiative promoted by the USDA and the GA Department of Agriculture.

Background:

Farm to School programs ensure that students have more locally grown foods in their school meal and snack programs. Farm to School establishes connections between schools and local farms to purchase more local produce, improve student nutrition, and promote eating fruits and vegetables. Farm to School programs support local and regional farmers and the local economy by working with local distributors and farmers to purchase locally grown foods.

As part of our Farm to School initiative, Johnson County Schools will:

- Focus on GADOE/GASNP 20/20 Initiative to ensure that 20% of each food component offered at meal time is Georgia Grown every day.
- Offer student "taste testing" of GA Grown items.
- Utilize school nutrition program and CTAE/Agriculture Education programs to give students an opportunity to plant, harvest, prepare and eat the foods grown at school.
- CTAE/Agriculture Education will use the Farm to School program to promote awareness of how food choices affect our health, communities, and environment.
- Market GA Grown food items on the serving line.
- Advertise GA Grown food items during morning announcements as possible.
- Serve GA Grown food items at peak ripeness and peak flavor season.
- Serve GA Grown food items at correct temperature for optimal flavor and safety.
- Offer farm tours to students, as permitted.
- School Nutrition staff will participate in ongoing training from DOE and Department of Agriculture, and other programs.