National Farm to School Network

Vision Statement

A nation in which farm to school programs are an essential component of strong and just local and regional food systems, ensuring the health of children, farms, the environment, the economy and communities.
The Evaluation Framework is:

• A resource intended to GUIDE practice, research and policy development for the growing field of farm to school.
• It is a framework, NOT a Toolkit, not a Step by Step Guide for Evaluation.
• Accompanying User Guide, Sector Briefs, and other materials.

The Evaluation Framework

• Meets specific gaps in the field:
  – Common definitions and language
  – Deeper dive into FOUR key sectors connected to farm to school
  – Articulation and understanding of cross-sectoral connections
  – Recommended approaches for evaluation / tracking at the program level, research level and policy level.
Framework Development

Process

- Informal engagement – over years (250+ persons)
- Formal engagement – Sep 2013 onwards (50+ persons)
  1: Identification of broad areas
  2: Framework content development
  3: Content expansion and feedback
  4: Testing at a short course in Austin, April 2014
  5. Launch in August 2014

Why an evaluation framework?
Theory Based: Hybrid Socio Ecological Model

Program Articulation: Common Definitions, Language
Supplemental Elements

Concept: User Levels

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>RESEARCH</th>
<th>POLICY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program planning,</td>
<td>Research that builds on</td>
<td>Policies that support</td>
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<td>reporting and</td>
<td>programs and feeds into</td>
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<td>evaluation</td>
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6 SEEDS
OF AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM
- Training and Professional Development
- Promotion and Media
- Planning, Coordination and Evaluation
- Outreach and Community Engagement
- Policy Alignment
- Funding
Concept: Deep Dive into 4 Sectors Impacted by Farm to School

Public Health

Education

Community Economic Development

Environmental Quality

Touch Points and Actors

Use this to:

• Build your team

• Plan your program
  • What activities are you doing?
  • Who are they for?
  • Who participates in them?

• Design an evaluation plan
  • Who reports information?
  • What information is sought?
• A critical frame for considering farm to school outcomes, indicators and measures
• Dig deeper and explore equity focused outcomes and indicators

Program Articulation
Program Planning, Implementation and Promotion: Cross-Sector Connections

Education

Public Health

Environmental Quality

Use this Evaluation Framework In Conjunction with Existing Toolkits/Resources

- Don’t reinvent the wheel – the wheel already exists!
Appendices

- Evaluation resources
  - Online repository of tools – search under “resources” on [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org)
- Implementation resources
- Farm to School Menu of Options
- Sample Logic Model
- Sample Evaluation Tools – for all 4 sectors
- Ideas for Exploration - for all 4 sectors

Key Takeaways

Common Language
Common Outcomes, Indicators, Measures
Common Tools
Common Vision

Schools Desire Minimally Processed Foods

Nearly 90% of school districts report that at least some of the produce they purchase needs to be minimally processed.
Top 3 Obstacles to Purchasing Local Foods
Farm to School is a Win Win Win!

- HEALTH: Kids Win
- AGRICULTURE: Farmers Win
- ECONOMY: Communities Win