

Farm to Summer 2025

SEASON YOUR SUMMER *TOOLKIT*



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

Farm to Summer

Season Your Summer

This summer season presents an exciting opportunity for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors to venture into the world of Farm to School and Early Childhood Education (ECE). Farm to Summer is a promotion, hosted by the Indiana Grown for Schools Network and the Indiana Department of Education, to encourage summer programs to incorporate more agriculture education and local purchasing into their summer program. This year, herbs will be the focus. By this point, you have received seeds that you can send home with your students. Within this toolkit, you will find links to resources and activity sheets to accompany the seeds.

For SFSP sponsors planning to apply for the Turnip the Beet award, this will be a great addition to your application!

How to Participate

There are two main ways to participate in this year's promotion. The first is to give out seeds and activity sheets, and the second is to purchase local food to serve throughout your summer program.



Distribute Seeds and Activity Sheets

1) Print off the week one activity sheet and send it, along with the seeds, home with students.

a) All of the resources, including the week 1 worksheet, can be found [here](#).

2) After the first week, take a look at the other resources and decide what you would like to share with your students as their basil plants grow.

Week 1 Activity Sheet example;



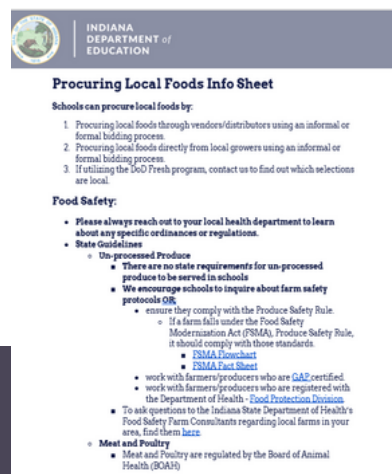
2

Purchase local food

There are many ways to procure locally. Sponsors can purchase directly from a farmer or producer, purchase from a broadline distributor, or purchase from a food hub.

The state has a great network of individuals who work to connect local buyers with schools or early care and education centers. Reach out to [Anna Holloway](#), our state's Farm to School Value Chain Professional, for support in meeting and purchasing from local farmers.

Reach out to your local health department to ensure there are no local ordinances or regulations in your county. See the [attached](#) documents to learn the state procurement guidelines and helpful tips.



Additional Resources

You can find flyers to promote this fun initiative and social media posts online, as well.

Flyer



Example Social Post



Support Network

The Indiana Department of Education works within the Indiana Grown for Schools Network. This network was established to support Farm to School and Early Childcare Education (ECE) efforts in Indiana. Farm to School generally encompasses three pillars: school gardens, local procurement, and agriculture and nutrition education. Please visit the [Indiana Grown for Schools](#) website and learn what additional resources are available. There are [toolkits](#) for the different pillars of Farm to School, [Harvest of the Month](#) resources, lesson plans, [webinars](#), and more.

The network is eager to support all participating organizations. Please don't hesitate to contact our [Farm to School Coordinators](#) to schedule a technical assistance call or site visit.

