We are creating a website for the *Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network* to build understanding around Oregon’s Farm to School needs, opportunities, and successes.

This website is both a tool for individual districts to access data and for moving decision-makers such as legislators and big players in the regional food economy.
IS

a clean, bold presentation of the data
bright and colorful
emotionally powerful
easily searchable
good storytelling
a tool to help individual districts set goals and measure progress
updatable—new data will be pulled in as available
easily transitioned to OFSSGN ownership

IS NOT

Overly cute or child-like
Policy-speak
Difficult to navigate
Farm to school is transforming Oregon—generating $21 million for our communities, 100+ jobs, and feeding 567,000 kids.

Increasingly, schools are a critical point for students to learn about health and the importance of environmental literacy and ecological ethics of our planet. And for decades, Oregon has been a leader in recognizing the value of connecting schools and students to food and agriculture.

School gardens that school districts promote are bringing together students, parents, community members, and schools to grow healthy food. From school gardens, students learn about growing food, cooking, and eating healthy food. Early adopters have found that gardens are not just a gateway to learning about agriculture, they’re also a gateway to learning about all sorts of subjects, from math to art literacy. To smooth the path for their educational programs, there is a growing network of schools committed to making these transactions possible, from providing early farm to school programs. Gardens are a great place to start, putting more money in the pockets of Oregon’s farmers, helping students learn about local food, and for using food as a teaching kids about food, and for using food as a tool to teach kids how to eat healthier. Early farm to school adopters blazed a trail for other Oregon schools.

In Oregon, 53% of kids qualify for free and reduced lunch. Recognizing that farm to school educational efforts are providing healthy food for 65% of Oregon school districts serving 89% of school meals in the state to students. We’re proud of our gardens and we want to know more about the impact of farm to school programs on students’ health (heart health, whether or not children avoid local food), and how to align educational resources with state standards. If we want to see these programs reach their full potential, teachers, and administrators need support for ongoing education and training of their own. Oregon Farm to School grants for educational programing reach XXXX students.

Oregon Farm to School grants for educational programing reach XXXX students. Early farm to school adopters blazed a trail for involving kids about local food, and for using food as a gateway to learning about all sorts of subjects, from math to art literacy. To smooth the path for their educational programs, there is a growing network of schools committed to making these transactions possible. Early farm to school programs. Gardens are a great place to start, putting more money in the pockets of Oregon’s farmers, helping students learn about local food, and for using food as a tool to teach kids how to eat healthier. Early farm to school adopters blazed a trail for other Oregon schools.

When it comes to Oregon’s economy, the impact of farm to school food on the state Oregon schools spent $4.5 million on local food in 2015, and is reaping the rewards. School gardens that school districts promote are bringing together students, parents, community members, and schools to grow healthy food. From school gardens, students learn about growing food, cooking, and eating healthy food. Early adopters have found that gardens are not just a gateway to learning about agriculture, they’re also a gateway to learning about all sorts of subjects, from math to art literacy. To smooth the path for their educational programs, there is a growing network of schools committed to making these transactions possible. Early farm to school programs. Gardens are a great place to start, putting more money in the pockets of Oregon’s farmers, helping students learn about local food, and for using food as a tool to teach kids how to eat healthier. Early farm to school adopters blazed a trail for other Oregon schools.

605 Oregon schools have edible gardens—that’s over 50% of all schools in the state!
Building healthy kids and communities

Farm to school activities aim to provide healthy local food options and nutrition and food-based education to influence healthy eating behaviors and healthy lifestyles in children and their parents. Success in this sector is measured by looking at student and family access to, awareness of, preferences for, and consumption of locally produced healthy food in schools and communities.

Healthy, local food to kids who need it most.

Total dollar amount of all local and Oregon products (overall and by type) purchased by school districts.

Multnomah County overall purchases:

$425,000

Source: 16_USDA Farm to School Census
Funding for Farm to School and School Gardens Network.

**PRIORITY OUTCOME**

- Students and their caregivers benefitted by healthy food access in schools for some form of promotion of local foods.
- Local and statewide food systems benefitted by income generation and employment of local producers, and enhancing the local food system by adding value through education and promotion of local food.
- Healthy food access increased for students in school districts making local purchases that are doing some form of promotion of local foods.
- Educators and school administrators benefitted by professional development / in-service training and technical assistance.
- Local and sustainable food systems improved by increased access to markets for farm products, and increased consumer awareness of local food issues.
- Schools support healthy food environments.
- Local and sustainable food systems benefitted by increased access to markets for farm products, and increased consumer awareness of local food issues.

**MEASURES**

- Number or percentage of school districts by type purchased by school districts spent on local and Oregon foods by school districts.
- Number or percentage of school districts in the state:
  - for food-based, edible school garden that is actively used for school gardens into school meals.

**INDICATORS**

- Local and statewide food systems benefitted by income generation and employment of local producers, and enhancing the local food system by adding value through education and promotion of local food.
- Schools support healthy food environments.
- Local and sustainable food systems improved by increased access to markets for farm products, and increased consumer awareness of local food issues.
- Educators and school administrators benefitted by professional development / in-service training and technical assistance.

**Evaluation is needed for transformation.**

Looking several years out, and organizing a year-long professional development without data to drive our decision making will be challenging at best. Our experiences have taught us the importance of continuous improvement. To make significant changes reoccurs in the state budget. b.) provides permanent / recurring in the state budget, b.) through a distributor, c.) for food-based, edible school garden that is actively used for school gardens into school meals.

**Evaluation is needed for transformation.**

Looking several years out, and organizing a year-long professional development without data to drive our decision making will be challenging at best. Our experiences have taught us the importance of continuous improvement. To make significant changes, we need a framework to inform our own efforts to evolve and strengthen the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program. We were fortunate that a framework for evaluating farm to school efforts was developed by the National Farm to School Network (NFtSN) and was recently released to the public. We used NFtSN’s framework to evaluate our current state of affairs with the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program. We analyze this framework to inform our own efforts to evolve and strengthen the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program.

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Thank you.