

SOUTH DAKOTA FARM TO SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN **JUNE 2023**

Mission

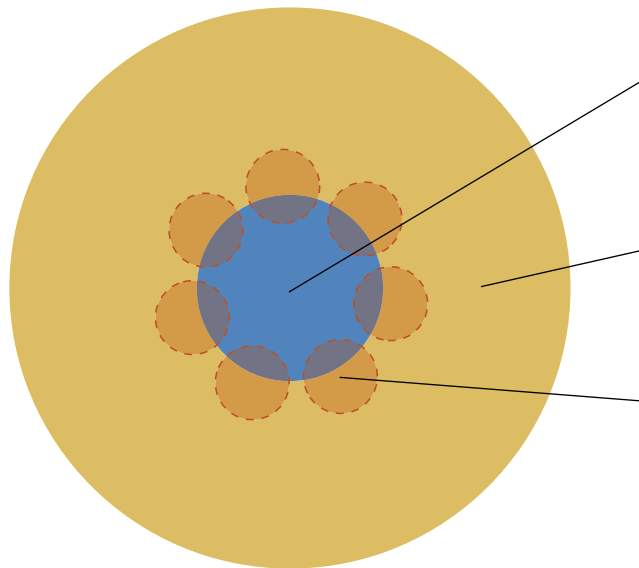
A thriving **South Dakota Farm to School Network** supports the development of place-based farm to school activities and the growth of awareness of what farm to school is and its benefits.

The Network connects child nutrition and education professionals, producers, and support organizations. Through the development of practical guidance, educational resources, effective communications, and strategic direction, the **South Dakota Farm to School Core Team** serves as the glue to grow and strengthen the Farm to School Network.

Vision

We envision a South Dakota where all youth are nourished by locally grown foods and enriched by strong connections with agriculture. Across the state, producers flourish through abundant economic opportunities with schools and other institutions. Schools and other institutions work together to serve local foods and provide quality learning experiences in food and agriculture. By leveraging and combining South Dakota's deeply rooted agricultural knowledge, creativity, and self-sufficiency with robust farm to school activities, youth are connected to their local food system and South Dakota producers feed their communities.

Network Structure



SD Farm to School Core Team

The glue that holds the Network together

SD Farm to School Network

Hub for information, networking, and building community

Working Group(s)

Temporary group formed to accomplish a specific activity or task

Goals & Activities

Goal 1: Build support and awareness for South Dakota farm to school across stakeholder groups.		Who?	When?
Activities	Develop a communications toolkit with resources to help schools and other child nutrition programs communicate about and promote their individual farm to school programs. Resources may include a one-page document that outlines the benefits of farm to school and how to participate in the Network, resources that explain meal requirements, a template press release or other sample media tools to promote farm to school activities, as well as information to identify and build creative partnerships to support farm to school activities.	Ad Hoc Outreach Working Group	Summer - Fall 2023
	Develop a South Dakota Farm to School (SD F2S) logo and branding.	SD DOE + Core Team	Fall 2023 - Winter 2024
	Launch a SD F2S website that serves as a repository of information.	SD DOE + Core Team	Spring 2024
Goal 2: Facilitate sharing information, knowledge, and experience between farm to school stakeholders.			
Activities	Form a SD F2S listserv to build awareness of who is in the Network and facilitate member-to-member communication.	Core Team	Summer 2023
	Convene the Network at regular in-person regional gatherings. Regional gatherings could include, but are not limited to: field trips to sites implementing/contributing to farm to school activities, networking events, and/or trainings for different stakeholder groups including producers.	Core Team	Launch Fall 2023, continue throughout 2024
	Host an annual SD F2S gathering (that rotates locations around the state) that connects producers, child nutrition professionals, support organizations, and other stakeholders. If funding for an in-person gathering is not available, consider hosting a virtual meeting.	Ad Hoc F2S Gathering Working Group	Winter 2024
Goal 3: Enhance farm to school capacity and capabilities across stakeholder groups.			
Activities	Compile a curated list of new and existing resources which would be most valuable to SD stakeholders, drawing from SD, other states', and national resources. Share with the SD F2S Network.	Core Team	Summer - Fall 2023
	Form a F2S Training Working Group to develop two trainings: 1) South Dakota Farm to School Resource Guide training with different modules for different stakeholder groups; 2) FAQ on Beef/Bison to School with different modules for different stakeholder groups. Deliver in-person to further refine trainings; record and make available widely online.	Ad Hoc Training Working Group	Fall 2023 - Winter 2024
	Convene child nutrition professionals to identify both needs and opportunities. Support a peer learning environment where child nutrition professionals are able to support one another's farm to school aims. This may include sharing recipe resources, equipment or preparation recommendations, available grants or other funding, and guidance on how to connect with producers.	Ad Hoc School Support Working Group	Ongoing

This project was funded with federal dollars available to the South Dakota Department of Education through the American Rescue Plan.