

Farm to School Policy

The La Center School District supports healthy eating and physical activity as important components to promote the health and well-being of its students. Good nutrition and physical activity help contribute to improved academic performance, attendance rates, behavior, and lifelong health and well-being.

As part of the efforts, La Center School District supports the Farm to School Program to connect its schools and local farms so that cafeterias are able to serve fresher and more nutritious meals using locally produced food. This policy is created to:

1. Help students eat more nutritious foods and develop healthier lifelong eating patterns.
2. Support the local economy and local farmers.
3. Integrate food-related education into the classroom curriculum.
4. Improve the quality of foods served in the cafeteria.

Goals of the Farm to School Program:

1. Staff members are encouraged to utilize food from local farms in classroom kitchens and cafeterias.
2. Staff members are encouraged to establish relationships with local farms.
3. Food service and teaching staff will work together to integrate experiences in cafeterias, kitchens and classrooms.
4. School food services will coordinate its menus with seasonal production of local farms so that school meals will reflect seasonality and local agriculture.

The La Center School District seeks to serve Washington State grown products to its students. Cafeteria staff will seek quotes for locally-produced, grown or processed items (within 200 miles) to serve to its students. A number scale from 1 to 5 will be used to determine vendor preference and location. All vendors or farmers will use good food handling practices to ensure safety of the products provided.

References: USDA, Farm to School Program
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

WSDA, Washington State Department of Agriculture
<http://www.wafarmentoschool.org/Page/2/about-farm-to-school>

La Center School District
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