

Weakley County Farm to School Initiative Vision Statement

The Weakley County Farm to School Initiative plants the seeds for students to learn where their food comes from by growing, observing, and experiencing hands-on opportunities. The growth of the initiative occurs as educators, farmers, and local ag-based entities work together to create a nationally recognized sustainable model.



Farm to School Initiative Goals (within 3 years)

Section I: Cafeteria

CAFETERIA GOAL 1: By the end of the school year 2021-2022, the Weakley County School Nutrition Department will have an official Local Food Procurement Manual.

CAFETERIA GOAL 2: In the 2021-2022 school year, Weakley County Schools will imbed the Harvest of the Month program into the cafeteria through an educational poster campaign, offering locally sourced options on the menu and as a taste-test (1 x month) to correspond with available locally grown and produced products.

Section II: Classroom

CLASSROOM GOAL 1: By the 2022-2023 school year, educators will have resources to fully integrate garden, food and agriculture education into curriculum to help engage students with hands-on learning about food, agriculture, nutrition integrated into science, math and ELA.

CLASSROOM GOAL 2: By 2023-2024, Weakley County Schools will increase hands-on learning, experiential learning opportunities in all schools.

Section III: Community

COMMUNITY GOAL 1: By fifth grade, all students will be aware of local farm to school efforts and have at least one hands-on experience of visiting an actual farm.

Section IV: Coordination, Integration and Staying Power

STAYING POWER GOAL 1: By the 2022-2023 school year, a farm to school committee will be recognized by the School Board and fully functioning with representation from school admin, school nutrition staff, faculty, and community members.

STAYING POWER GOAL 2: By 2021-2022, the Weakley County Livestock Farm will have diversified revenue resources to sustainably support the Farm, FFA program, and Farm to School Local Food Procurement requests.

STAYING POWER GOAL 3: Create a sustainable Farm to School initiative.

STAYING POWER GOAL 4: By 2021 have Farm to School initiative language included in the updated Weakley County School Wellness Policy ready for approval by the School Board.

Long-term Goals & Aspiration (5 years and beyond)

CAFETERIA

By 2026, the Weakley County School Nutrition Services will coordinate its menus with safe and accessible seasonal products from local farms and school growing operations so that school meals will reflect seasonality and local agriculture.

By 2026, the Weakley County School Food Services Director shall ensure that meals served within the federally reimbursable meal program are designed to include fruits and vegetables and other nutritious foods from consistent local sources to the greatest extent possible within the funds available;

By 2030, the Weakley County Nutrition Services will support and collaborate with all school grown food products appropriately to support the essential role these school growing programs provide the students and their community.

CLASSROOM

By 2026, all school growing operations including the Weakley County Livestock Farm, school gardens and greenhouses will prepare students to maintain production of school grown products to sell their products into the school and community to create a sustainable funding source for growing food operations.

By 2030, ALL Weakley County students will participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition.

By 2030, 50% of teachers will use the Farm to School program to promote awareness of how food choices affect our health, communities, and environment.

By 2030, 100% of Weakley County students will have participated in nutrition education and promotion programs including developmentally appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities such as cooking demonstrations, local food taste-testing, farm visits and school growing operations.

COMMUNITY

By 2030, graduating seniors will have an overall knowledge of local agriculture and can identify products they have consumed from local sources.

By 2026, graduating seniors will have experienced at least one hands-on agricultural learning and an on-site interaction with local farms.

By 2026, the Harvest of the Month calendar contest is an annual event that supports the promotion of Farm to School Programming in Weakley County Schools.

STAYING POWER

By 2025, the Weakley County School Board will authorize and approve the Superintendent and School Administration to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private grant funding in support of a Farm-to-School initiative.

By 2026, there is a system in place for funding and access to resources that can continually sustain the Weakley County Farm to School initiative.

By 2026, Weakley County schools will develop at least one creative campus fundraiser based on healthy food items, integrating farm grown produce where appropriate.

Why farm to school?



Kids WIN

Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.



Farmers WIN

Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening the doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.



Communities WIN

Farm to school benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates new jobs and strengthens the local economy.



WEAKLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS
"Lighting the way to a brighter future"



Weakley County
School Nutrition Department



NORTHWEST TENNESSEE
LOCAL FOOD
NETWORK