



RHODE ISLAND
FARM & SEA
TO SCHOOL



INSTITUTE

The Rhode Island Farm & Sea to School Network provides leadership, coordination, and advocacy to advance farm to school efforts in Rhode Island's cafeterias, classrooms, and communities.



The Farm & Sea to School Institute is a year-long professional development opportunity that brings together K-12 and early care education administrators, child nutrition professionals, and educators to build relationships, skills, and a collaborative farm to school action plan for their schools.

The program starts with a two-day in-person retreat for school-based teams during which they learn the core components of farm to school and begin to develop your school or district’s unique vision. Each selected team will be assigned a coach who will support you throughout the year as you develop and implement a customized Farm & Sea to School action plan.

The Institute will also provide opportunities for making impactful connections within your community through a series of workshops throughout the year that will be tailored to the most pressing needs of our Farm & Sea to School Network.

These follow on workshops will provide additional technical assistance around the three “C’s” of Farm & Sea to School Network; Classroom (learning about food in class or having a school garden), Cafeteria (serving local foods in the school meals), and Community (connecting with local farmers). When farm to school activities are occurring in each of these three areas in a strategic and connected way...that’s when the real magic happens!

After each team has completed their Institute year, they will have developed an exciting Farm & Sea to School Action Plan and will be connected to the statewide Farm & Sea to School Network for ongoing technical capacity building, training, and support.

The RI Farm & Sea to School Institute Recipe for Success



BUILD YOUR SKILLS

Learn farm & sea to school principles through hands-on workshops and support.



BUILD A WHOLE-SCHOOL TEAM

Foster cross-departmental relationships for sustainable farm & sea to school programs.



CREATE AN ACTION PLAN

Develop a school-wide plan that aligns farm & sea to school goals with curriculum and community.



COLLABORATE WITH YOUR COACH

Work with a local food system expert for a year to implement your action plan.



GROW YOUR CONNECTIONS

Network with experienced practitioners and like-minded partners for support and inspiration.



ACTIVATE YOUR VISION

Teams that complete an action plan can apply for a mini grant to kickstart implementation.

The cost per school team to attend the Farm & Sea to School Network is \$400. The financial value of the services and resources provided through the Institute year is over \$5,000. Scholarships may be available, please indicate on your application if you’d like to learn more about this!

Building a Team

Your Farm & Sea to School Institute team is the most critical part of your program! School teams must be composed of 4–6 individuals representing various areas of your school and community. At a minimum, teams must have representation from the three following roles, administration, educators, and school nutrition professionals. Additional members can include family members, local farmers, students, community partners, school nurses and other staff, wellness committee members, individuals on the school board, etc.

We encourage and seek diverse teams that include members of different racial and gender identities, experience levels, and program roles. We will be looking to select at least 50% of our teams from districts that participate in the Community Eligibility Provision.

Your Institute Year

SUMMER: All team members review program materials prior to the in person summer retreat to prepare for the exciting work ahead. Your team will join a virtual orientation call with your fellow network cohort teams and their coaches to prepare for the retreat. Attend our two day in-person summer kickoff retreat in late June to engage in hands-on learning, dive into the farm & sea to school action planning, and grow the collective impact of your team. Estimated time commitment is 2 days in person at the Retreat + 5 hours to discuss the Action Plan and review materials.

FALL–WINTER: Meet regularly throughout the school year with your coach as you implement your action plan; participate in two virtual, cohort-wide check-ins; attend optional follow up workshops to continue building your team’s skills. The time commitment is flexible depending on the team’s wishes but approximately 1 hour a month for team meetings is recommended.

SPRING: End your institute year with a year two action plan and regroup with your cohort to share your progress and reflections at an in-person celebratory gathering. The time commitment is your team meeting time + 2 hours for an in-person gathering.

What Our Alumni Are Saying:

“I learned that anything is possible and that we have an entire community here to support us. I am eager to reach out to all of the contacts that have been made to get these gardens going!”

FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL INSTITUTE ATTENDEE

“This was an amazing program! It was incredibly valuable to learn how to start a school based garden, education that goes along with that garden and composting. Our coach was such an asset!”

FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL INSTITUTE ATTENDEE

“As a community member, I feel very motivated after this training. Seeing how much support is available to us has really made this task feel not as big as it once did.”

FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL INSTITUTE ATTENDEE



Begin your school's farm and sea to school journey today!

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NETWORK



HOW TO APPLY

Scan the QR code below to begin your application for the Farm & Sea to School Institute! **Your application must include letters of support from your school's administration and nutrition program director.** Letter templates are available in the application.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to the Farm & Sea to School Network at hello@rifarmtoschool.org. We are happy to meet with you anytime to discuss this program!



Please Note:

Program expenses during the RI-based two-day summer retreat are generously supported by the US Department of Agriculture and Vermont FEED. Meals and field trip transportation will be provided during the Retreat, but additional travel and incidental expenses are the responsibility of participants.

The Farm & Sea to School Institute is hosted by the RI Farm and Sea to School Network with support from the United State's Department of Agriculture, and Vermont FEED.



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