



CT Farm to School Compass:

Classroom, Community, and Coordination Sections

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Background

This tool is designed to guide your LEA's Farm to School journey and help identify opportunities to strengthen fresh, local connections within your school community.

The Compass is organized into three sections: **Procurement; Spending; and Best Practices and Needs Assessment:**

- Most questions in the Procurement and Spending sections can be answered by the food service director.
- The Best Practices and Needs Assessment section covers a wider range of topics including cafeteria operations, classroom activities, school gardens, and community engagement. This section may require input from additional staff beyond the food service director. Please review the preview questions and collaborate with the appropriate team members as needed.

This document only contains the questions in the **Classroom, Community, and Coordination** sections of the Best Practices and Needs Assessment. These are the sections that will likely need to be completed by non-foodservice staff. This document can be printed out and completed by hand before you input your answers into the online tool.

For your convenience, you can also download a document with ALL questions in the assessment. Additionally, more information about the tool, including tips on who should answer each section and what documents are needed, can be found on the [Navigation page of the Compass website](#).

Classroom

Recommended respondents for Classroom domain: Curriculum Director, School Principal, Assistant Superintendent, Head of Health and Nutrition Education, Food Service Director.

We recognize that LEAs may divide grades into schools in different ways. For these questions, please answer the questions about “elementary schools” while thinking of students from kindergarten to grade 5; “middle schools” while thinking of students in grades 6 through 8; and “high schools” while thinking of students in grades 9 through 12.

If your LEA does not have one of these grade groupings, you can select “Not Applicable” and skip that section on the online tool.

Elementary School:

Which grade levels does this school serve? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Pre-K
- ☐ Kindergarten
- ☐ Grade 1
- ☐ Grade 2
- ☐ Grade 3
- ☐ Grade 4
- ☐ Grade 5

Please check only one response that best describes your LEA (Elementary School). Responses should reflect activities during the previous and current school year. If your LEA serves these grades, all rows except for “Other” are mandatory.

Activity	We are not doing this (0)	We are not doing this, but we are interested (1)	We have begun and are making progress (2)	We have done this in the past (3)	We are doing this! (4)	N/A
We celebrate CT Grown for CT Kids Week in Early October	0	1	2	3	4	5
We celebrate National Farm to School Month (October)	0	1	2	3	4	5
We organize farm field trips for students	0	1	2	3	4	5
We host farmer visits to our cafeteria or classrooms	0	1	2	3	4	5

We organize unique popup farmer's markets or farm events in our schools	0	1	2	3	4	5
We generate media coverage for our Farm to School operations (e.g., local newspaper, social media)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have edible school gardens (indoor or outdoor)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have implemented composting	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have culinary programs	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have cooking demos for kids and teachers, or young chef contests with Farm to School	0	1	2	3	4	5
We have a coordinated approach to providing students with experiences growing, harvesting, and cooking food	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our curriculum incorporates Farm to School concepts (e.g., literacy work using a garden or farm book, writing a prompt about a plant)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our students learn about agriculture-related careers (e.g., through a class/curriculum or clubs like 4-H or Future Farmers of America)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our students are involved in agricultural leadership programs (e.g., 4-H)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our food services personnel partner with the Agriculture Science and Technology Education (ASTE) on farm-to-school operations	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our teachers have access to educational materials that allow them to find innovative ways teach Farm to School concepts	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our teachers have ongoing professional development opportunities to create and update Farm to School curricula	0	1	2	3	4	5
Other	0	1	2	3	4	5

Which types of technical assistance would be helpful for your classrooms? Please check all that apply. You must select at least one option.

- ☐ Help establishing, revitalizing, or maintaining a school garden
- ☐ Food and Ag Literacy curriculum materials to enhance Farm to School in the classroom
- ☐ Professional development for educators
- ☐ Identifying farmers willing to visit our classroom to interact with students

- ☐ Help identifying grants for farm to school in the classroom
- ☐ Help establishing or utilizing a hydroponic system or other indoor system in the classroom
- ☐ Strategies to engage students and build student voice in our Farm to School activities
- ☐ Help accessing farm to early care tools and resources suitable for pre-K classrooms
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Middle School:

Which grade levels does this school serve? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Grade 6
- ☐ Grade 7
- ☐ Grade 8

Please check only one response that best describes your LEA (Middle School). Responses should reflect activities during the previous and current school year. If your LEA serves these grades, all rows except for “Other” are mandatory.

Activity	We are not doing this (0)	We are not doing this, but we are interested (1)	We have begun and are making progress (2)	We have done this in the past (3)	We are doing this! (4)	N/A
We celebrate CT Grown for CT Kids Week in Early October	0	1	2	3	4	5
We celebrate National Farm to School Month (October)	0	1	2	3	4	5
We organize farm field trips for students	0	1	2	3	4	5
We host farmer visits to our cafeteria or classrooms	0	1	2	3	4	5
We organize unique popup farmer's markets or farm events in our schools	0	1	2	3	4	5
We generate media coverage for our Farm to School operations (e.g., local newspaper, social media)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have edible school gardens (indoor or outdoor)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have implemented composting	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have culinary programs	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have cooking demos for kids and teachers, or young chef contests with Farm to School	0	1	2	3	4	5

We have a coordinated approach to providing students with experiences growing, harvesting, and cooking food	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our curriculum incorporates Farm to School concepts (e.g., literacy work using a garden or farm book, writing a prompt about a plant)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our students learn about agriculture-related careers (e.g., through a class/curriculum or clubs like 4-H or Future Farmers of America)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our students are involved in agricultural leadership programs (e.g., 4-H)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our food services personnel partner with the Agriculture Science and Technology Education (ASTE) on farm-to-school operations	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our teachers have access to educational materials that allow them to find innovative ways teach Farm to School concepts	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our teachers have ongoing professional development opportunities to create and update Farm to School curricula	0	1	2	3	4	5
Other	0	1	2	3	4	5

Which types of technical assistance would be helpful for your classrooms? Please check all that apply. You must select at least one option.

- ☐ Help establishing, revitalizing, or maintaining a school garden
- ☐ Food and Ag Literacy curriculum materials to enhance Farm to School in the classroom
- ☐ Professional development for educators
- ☐ Identifying farmers willing to visit our classroom to interact with students
- ☐ Help identifying grants for farm to school in the classroom
- ☐ Help establishing or utilizing a hydroponic system or other indoor system in the classroom
- ☐ Strategies to engage students and build student voice in our Farm to School activities
- ☐ Other (please specify):

High School:

Which grade levels does this school serve? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Grade 9
- ☐ Grade 10
- ☐ Grade 11
- ☐ Grade 12

Please check only one response that best describes your LEA (High School).
Responses should reflect activities during the previous and current school year. If your LEA serves these grades, all rows except for “Other” are mandatory.

Activity	We are not doing this (0)	We are not doing this, but we are interested (1)	We have begun and are making progress (2)	We have done this in the past (3)	We are doing this! (4)	N/A
We celebrate CT Grown for CT Kids Week in Early October	0	1	2	3	4	5
We celebrate National Farm to School Month (October)	0	1	2	3	4	5
We organize farm field trips for students	0	1	2	3	4	5
We host farmer visits to our cafeteria or classrooms	0	1	2	3	4	5
We organize unique popup farmer's markets or farm events in our schools	0	1	2	3	4	5
We generate media coverage for our Farm to School operations (e.g., local newspaper, social media)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have edible school gardens (indoor or outdoor)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have implemented composting	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have culinary programs	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our schools have cooking demos for kids and teachers, or young chef contests with Farm to School	0	1	2	3	4	5
We have a coordinated approach to providing students with experiences growing, harvesting, and cooking food	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our curriculum incorporates Farm to School concepts (e.g., literacy work using a garden or farm book, writing a prompt about a plant)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our students learn about agriculture-related careers (e.g., through a class/curriculum or clubs like 4-H or Future Farmers of America)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our students are involved in agricultural leadership programs (e.g., 4-H)	0	1	2	3	4	5

Our food services personnel partner with the Agriculture Science and Technology Education (ASTE) on farm-to-school operations	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our teachers have access to educational materials that allow them to find innovative ways teach Farm to School concepts	0	1	2	3	4	5
Our teachers have ongoing professional development opportunities to create and update Farm to School curricula	0	1	2	3	4	5
Other	0	1	2	3	4	5

Which types of technical assistance would be helpful for your classrooms? Please check all that apply. You must select at least one option.

- ☐ Help establishing, revitalizing, or maintaining a school garden
- ☐ Food and Ag Literacy curriculum materials to enhance Farm to School in the classroom
- ☐ Professional development for educators
- ☐ Identifying farmers willing to visit our classroom to interact with students
- ☐ Help identifying grants for farm to school in the classroom
- ☐ Help establishing or utilizing a hydroponic system or other indoor system in the classroom
- ☐ Strategies to engage students and build student voice in our Farm to School activities
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Community

Recommended respondents for Community domain: Family Engagement Coordinator, Family Liaison, School Nurse, Parent-Teacher Organization, School Principal, Food Service Director. Please answer these questions thinking about all schools in your district.

Please select the column that best describes your activities last year (2024-2025) and this year (2025-2026). All rows except for “Other” are mandatory.

Activity	We are not doing this (0)	We are not doing this, but we are interested (1)	We have begun and are making progress (2)	We have done this in the past (3)	We are doing this! (4)
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We coordinate community meals inviting school and community members to share a meal featuring local ingredients	0	1	2	3	4
We partner with our school district's parent organizations (e.g., PTO, PTA) to promote Farm to School activities with families (e.g., inviting parents to lunch, marketing Farm to School, fundraising)	0	1	2	3	4
We partner with local community organizations to promote Farm to School activities with the broader community (e.g., corn shucking contests, farmers markets at schools)	0	1	2	3	4
We receive support from community organizations for Farm to School activities or events (e.g., presentations, volunteers, funds)	0	1	2	3	4
We host skill-building classes and workshops for the community (e.g., cooking, gardening, composting)	0	1	2	3	4
We generate media coverage for our Farm to School operations (e.g., local newspaper, social media)	0	1	2	3	4
We have long-term relationships with local farms, food producers, and businesses that provided nutrition-based experiences for students throughout the school year	0	1	2	3	4
Other	0	1	2	3	4

Which types of technical assistance would be helpful for your community? Please check all that apply. You must select at least one option.

- ☐ Support with communication and marketing materials
- ☐ Planning and Implementing community events
- ☐ Fundraising strategies
- ☐ Best practices engaging community support for school gardens
- ☐ Connections with other organizations that support Farm to School activities
- ☐ Building support from LEA leaders
- ☐ Building a team of stakeholders including community members to support Farm to School priorities
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Coordination

Recommended respondents for Coordination domain: Farm to School Coordinator, Family Engagement Coordinator, School Nurse, Parent-Teacher Organization, School Principal, Food Service Director.

Please select the column that best describes your activities last year (2024-2025) and this year (2025-2026). All rows except for “Other” are mandatory.

Activity	We are not doing this (0)	We are not doing this, but we are interested (1)	We have begun and are making progress (2)	We have done this in the past (3)	We are doing this! (4)
Our community members, students, and school staff see Farm to School practices as integral to our community, schools, and educational programming	0	1	2	3	4
Our LEA has a designated Farm to School coordinator (different from the Regional Farm to School Coordinators)	0	1	2	3	4
Our LEA has a Farm to School team	0	1	2	3	4
When hiring all staff, we consider the applicant's ability to contribute to our farm and school activities	0	1	2	3	4
We have a funding system in place that can sustain Farm to School activities over the long term	0	1	2	3	4
Our LEA holds periodic meetings among the community to discuss Farm to School operations	0	1	2	3	4
Other	0	1	2	3	4

Our school district's current Farm to School goals are:

Please describe your school district's current Farm to School goals. For example: "Spend all our CT LFSIP funds by menuing local products each month"