

# Farm to School Coordinators and Program Success: A Visual Guide to Demonstrate Impact



## Why Do You Need a Farm to School Coordinator?

[Farm to school](#) (F2S) connects communities to fresh, local food and food producers by incorporating one or more of the three pillars of F2S: **local food procurement, school gardens, and education** related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition. F2S programs are multifaceted, comprehensive, and context-specific programs that can...

- Increase **positive health outcomes** for school-aged children
- Support **food literacy and healthy lifetime behaviors**
- Improve overall engagement and **academic achievement** of students\*

## What are Farm to School Coordinators?

National Farm to School Network (NFSN) defines farm to school coordinators as individuals that devote **at least 50% of their role to F2S programming at an educational site**. Their work focuses on the three primary F2S pillars. A majority of F2S coordinators reported being primarily housed in a non-profit organization, followed by child nutrition services/food service within the school district.

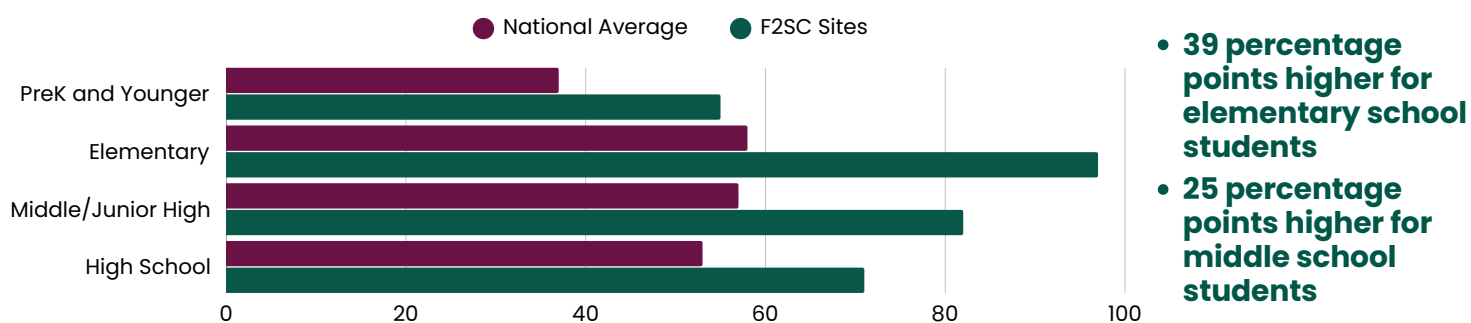
## Among Sites with Farm to School Coordinators:



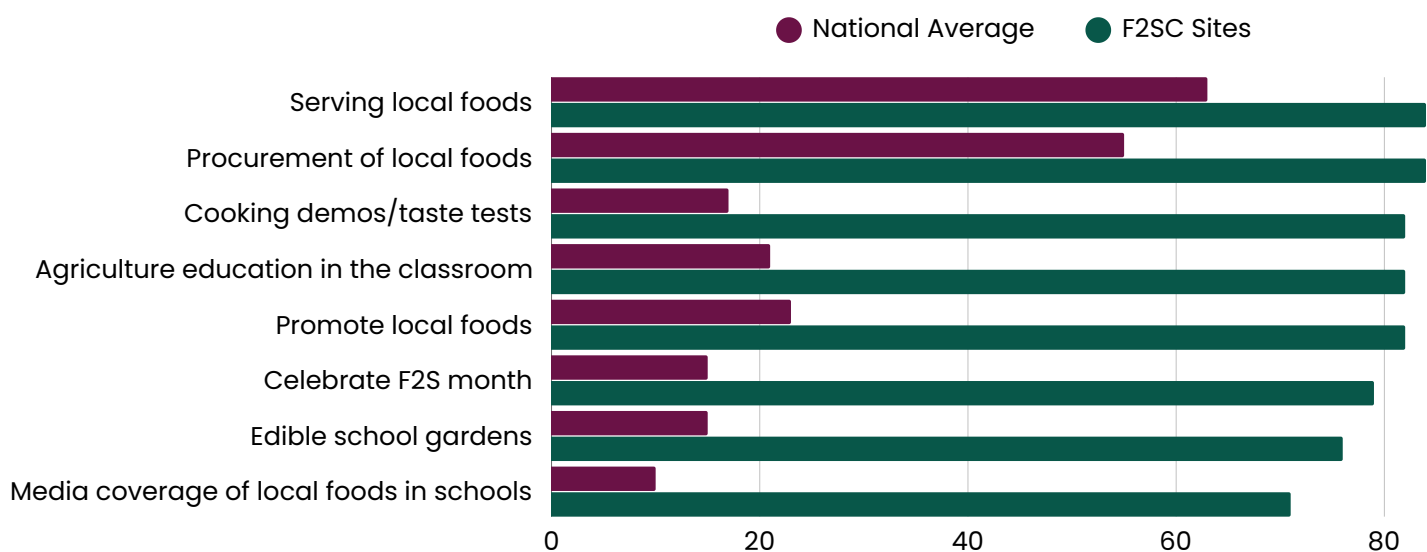
# SITES WITH FARM TO SCHOOL COORDINATORS

## Report Increased Participation in Farm to School

Sites with F2S coordinators report **higher rates of participation** in F2S activities at **all grade level categories** than the national average of all School Food Authorities (SFA).



Sites with Farm to School Coordinators report higher rates of site participation in F2S programming than the national average of all SFAs.



# Next Steps: Hire a Farm to School Coordinator Position

## DEFINE

Defining required **skill sets**, providing guidelines for **best practices**, and seeking resources for effective **role evaluation** can help ensure F2S coordinator success in your district.

## SUPPORT

Setting **clear goals and expectations** surrounding **implementation** and **coordinator authority** can help streamline the development and implementation of F2S programming in your district.

## SUSTAIN

Farm to school coordinators report that working toward a **district-funded position** that is less reliant on federal and local funding sources helps ensure stability for the role and the program overall. Starting small and creating part-time, district-funded positions can be a stepping stone toward **long-term success**.

*\*Unless otherwise noted, findings are the result of a study involving surveys (N = 45) and interviews (N = 8) with F2S coordinators across the US. Findings related to national numbers are from the 2023 F2S Census.*

## SCAN FOR RESOURCES



Scan for the [USDA Farm to School Literature Review](#)



Scan for the [NFSN Benefits of Farm to School Resource](#)

Visit

[www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org)

for more information and resources

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