NEWESD 101
Farm to School

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AGENDA/OBJECTIVES

• Nutrition Cooperative Overview
• Farm to School with ESD 101
• Farm to ECE and SNAP-Ed
• Statewide SNAP-Ed support and opportunities
Nutrition Cooperative

• Goals
  • Make life easier for foodservice professionals
  • **Improve program quality**
  • Meet federal regulations

School District Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Participation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SY 2018</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY 2019</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY 2020</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>SY 2021</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>SY 2022</td>
<td>22</td>
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Nutrition Cooperative

- Services
  - Ongoing Mentorship/Support
  - Menu Planning Support
  - Culinary Schools Training
  - Administrative Support
  - Networking Opportunities
  - Grant Writing
  - Audit Prep
  - Rules/Regulation Guidance
  - Farm to School Assistance
Farm to School

**Procurement:** Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test;

**School gardens:** Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening; and

**Education:** Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition.
History of Farm to School at ESD 101

• Began with a USDA F2S Planning Grant in 2019
  • Began with identifying partners
  • F2S Planning teams at school districts
  • ….Covid hit!

• WSDA Farm to School Purchasing grants
  • Released in 2021 – pilot from Jan 2022-August 2022
  • 5 Nutrition Cooperative school districts participated
  • 14 Nutrition Cooperative school districts for 2022-2023 school year
Farm to School Support

- Procurement/Connecting local producers and school districts
- Menu planning around local foods
- Helping to coordinate/simplify ordering
- Training (culinary skills, equipment)
- Recipe development/standardization
- Monthly newsletters
- Events and indirect education
- Garden support
- Curriculum support
Partnerships are KEY

- **Food Service Directors**: Trusting relationship with a history of mutual support
- **Farmers**: Clear and continued communication with farmers around what is available
- **Transportation**: Rural Resources and Catholic Charities Food for All
- **WSDA and OSPI**: Ensure rules and regulations are followed as related to the local purchasing grant and the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program
- **Food Hubs**: Provide schools with more variety and a single ordering site
- ... and more!
Success Stories
Events and Indirect Education

• Meet Your Farmer Days
• Farm Field Trips (coming this Spring!)
Systems change!

• We are working to change a food system that has operated the same way for a very long time.
  • Schools have used commodities and large mainline distributors.
  • Small farmers have not typically been in this market before.
• Requires training, patience, higher costs.
• It is important to celebrate successes and keep reminding partners that this will take time, but it is so WORTH IT!
Farm to ECE: Getting Started

• Connect and ID interest!
  • Good place to start: Who received a WSDA F2S Purchasing grant?
  • HeadStart/ECEAP
  • OSPI
  • Visit a local farmers market
  • Check to see if you have a local food hub
  • Build relationships!
Farm to ECE: Procurement

• Brought together many partners
  • Helping to review regulations related to local foods
  • Helping to make connections
  • Training cooks on ordering
• This has not been seamless!
  • Procurement has been the biggest challenge
• Using relationships and connection
• NEW: WSDA Farm to School Grants!!
Farm to ECE: Gardens

- Building Trust – Supporting centers in understanding regulations around gardening
- Installation
- Identifying ways to help make garden easier
- Providing support like plants and education
Farm to ECE: Education

• Harvest for Healthy Kids and Harvest of the Month
Statewide SNAP-Ed support

• Local procurement workgroup
  • Coordinated culinary training
  • Help with equipment grants
  • Funding for Harvest of the Month activities
• Farm to ECE alliance
• WSDA Farm to School Team
• OSPI Child Nutrition
Do you know a school who could use equipment to support scratch cooking?

Do you work with a SNAP-Ed eligible school or ECE interested in doing more scratch cooking?

SNAP-Ed

WA SNAP-Ed is offering schools and ECEs up to $5,000 in kitchen equipment and supplies + consultation and training with a professional chef!

Know a school or ECE that's interested? Scan this QR code to complete a quick survey or contact Shannon Bachtel at Shannon.Bachtel@wsu.edu

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation, please contact Shannon Bachtel at Shannon.Bachtel@wsu.edu by April 24, 2023.
QUESTIONS?

Thank You!

www.esd101.net

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