

Farm to School: Advancing Racial Equity

Why Racial Equity in farm to school? At the intersections of our Food System and our Educational System, both steeped in a legacy of structural racism and both evidencing numerous racial disparities, farm to school work has the potential to positively impact students, families, schools, farmers, and whole communities. Sharing the Racial Equity impacts and benefits of farm to school can help build support.



data during covid from nechild.org and nejustice.org

Terms

Racial Equity: when outcomes & opportunities are not dependent on zip code or skin color Racial Equity Lens: (not linear nor simple, but an interplay of these steps . . .)

- acknowledge racial disparities that shape life options and outcomes;
- analyze the root causes of racial disparities; and
- develop structural strategies to improve outcomes and opportunities for all.

Actions to Advance Racial Equity in Farm to School

INCLUDING RACIAL EQUITY LANGUAGE AND PRACTICES IN SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICIES

- Identifying the racial demographics and issues particular to your community is part of establishing a need, but Structural Racism impacts all communities through food and educational systems as well as larger systems. Explaining in writing the disparate opportunities and outcomes based on race can build understanding and support for collective action.
- Specifying actions to address inequities can clarify the policies and practices that will support all children
 and the school environments in which they are nurtured. Engaging your School Health Advisory Council
 (SHAC) to implement the Whole Child Model and craft concrete equity practices can also strengthen
 relationships among your team and help shape advocate roles. *see Building Capacity handout

BRINGING FOOD AND EDUCATION RACIAL EQUITY ISSUES TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD POLICY COUNCILS, SHACS AND SCHOOL BOARDS

- Local Food Policy Councils, SHACs and School Boards are directed by and responsive to community-based needs so will typically have the partners, perspectives, goals, and resources not only to frame work in farm to school through a whole community and equity lens but to support actions.
- See work in Orange County Schools and Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, addressing Equity with School Boards in CHCCS and partnering with Local Food Councils in Orange County. In very different ways, each school system has structural changes through these relationships.





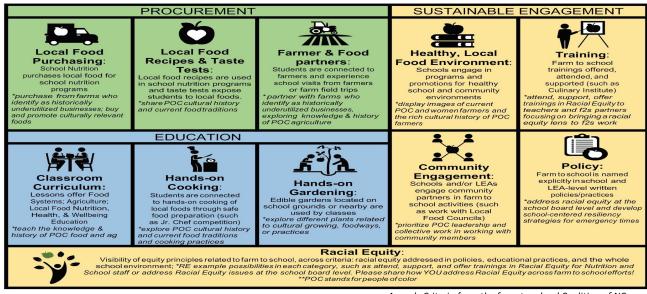


BUILDING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH HUB/POC AND FOOD JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Most counties or regions will have groups who have long been doing work on Racial Equity issues.
 Connecting with work driven by People of Color (POC) led community groups and following POC leadership helps ensure impacts will address root causes and lessen unintended consequences.
- Seeking out POC farmers and Historically Underserved Businesses (HUB) supports enterprises and people that have historically and still face structural barriers plus advances a more equitable economic system.

OFFERING RACIAL EQUITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS FOR SCHOOL PROFESSIONALS AND PARTNERS

- Racial Equity trainings are not an end in themselves but provide the shared language, analysis, and strategies for collectively developing local approaches to local needs.
- Buncombe County obtained grant funding that supported School Nutrition but also provided an Equity consultant and professional development training in Racial Equity for staff and partners.



Awards Criteria from the farm to school Coalition of NC

Additional Resources

School Data and Equity Action recommendations from NC Forum: https://www.ncforum.org/committee-on-racial-equity/

The National Farm to School Network: Racial Equity in Farm to School: http://www.farmtoschool.org/equity

The Farm to School Coalition of NC Racial Equity resources folder: www.farmtoschoolcoalitionnc.org/resources

NC Department of Public Instruction's Local Wellness Policy resources, https://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/local-wellness-policies

More information about NC Local Food Policy Councils can be found at https://communityfoodstrategies.org/what/network/members/

For educators and parents as well as child advocates, "Children are not Colorblind: How Young Children Learn Race" Erin N. Winkler: http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.621.9728&rep=rep1&type=pdf



