

Planting the Seed: Farm to School Roadmap for Success

Presented by:
Nick Anicich, CDFA Farm to School Program
Manager

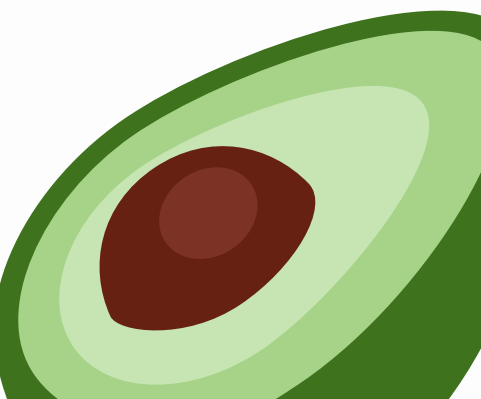
nicholas.anicich@cdfa.ca.gov



What is Farm to School?

Farm to school programs combine:

- California food procurement
- Education that connects classrooms, cafeterias, and outdoor learning spaces (gardens/farms/etc.)
- Experiential learning with the community (field trips, guest teachers, etc.)



Why does Farm to School Matter?

- **Nutrition Security**
 - Increases meal participation, consumption, and attendance
- **Education**
 - Improves engagement, achievement, and wellbeing
- **Economic Resilience**
 - Invests federal dollars locally, scaling circular economies
- **Environment**
 - Creates stable, consistent marketplace for climate smart agriculture
- **Racial Justice**
 - Increases economic opportunity for producers of color, improving culturally relevant food access and educational opportunities for youth

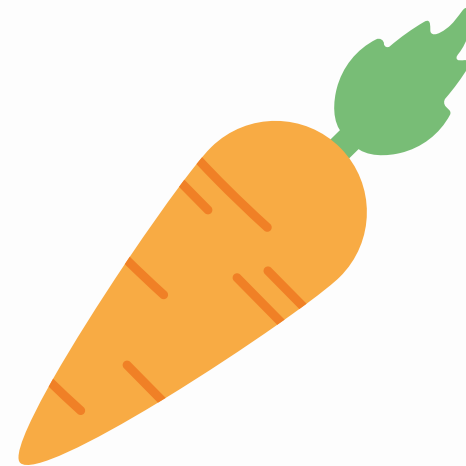


How does CDFA implement?



California F2S Network

Engaging cross section of producers, educators, school nutrition professionals, and non-profit partners throughout California



CA F2S Incubator Grant

Providing funding and technical assistance for CA farm to school projects throughout the state










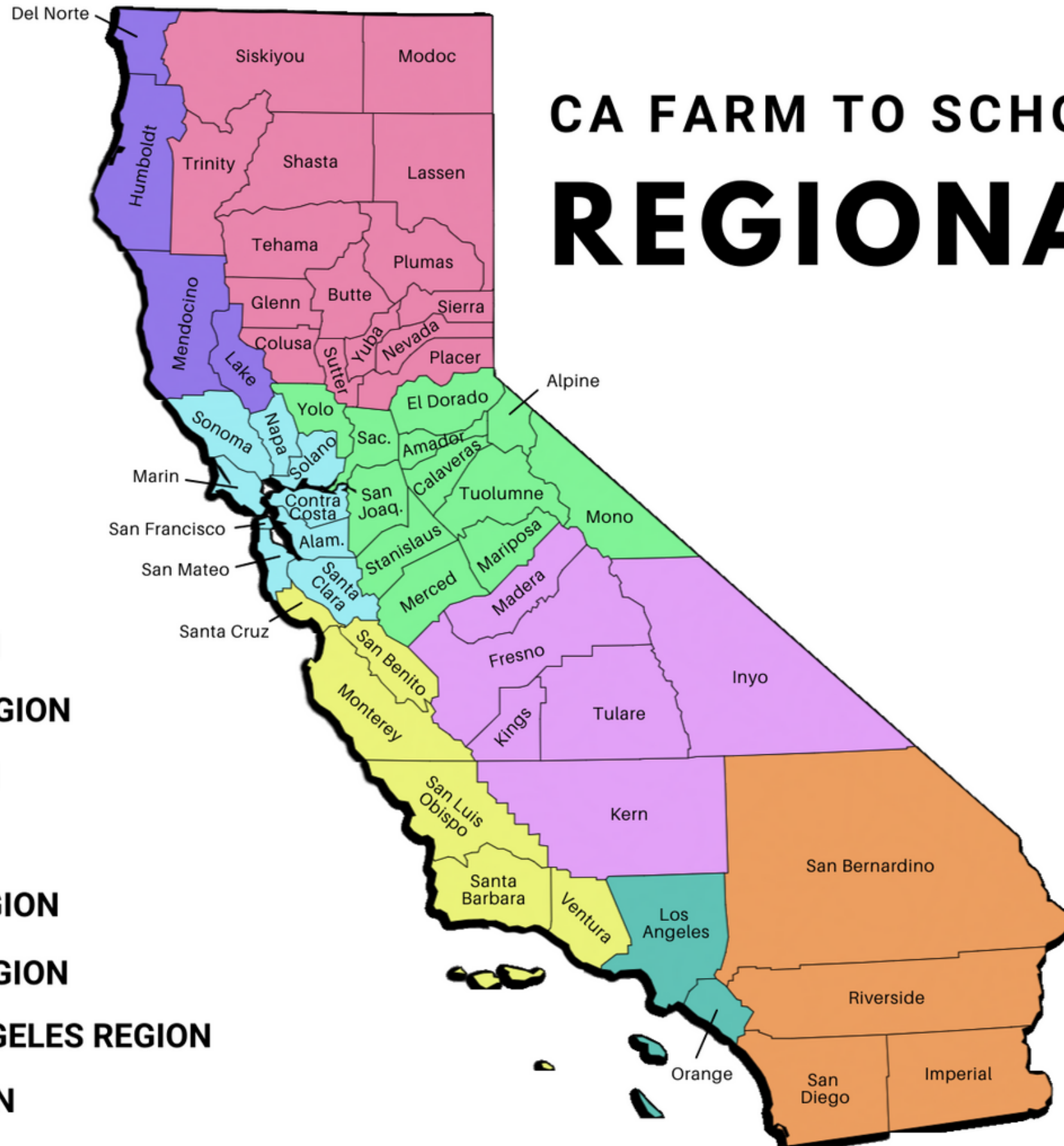
CA F2S Roadmap

Gathering stakeholders to establish a shared vision for the future of farm to school programming throughout California



CA FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK REGIONAL MAP

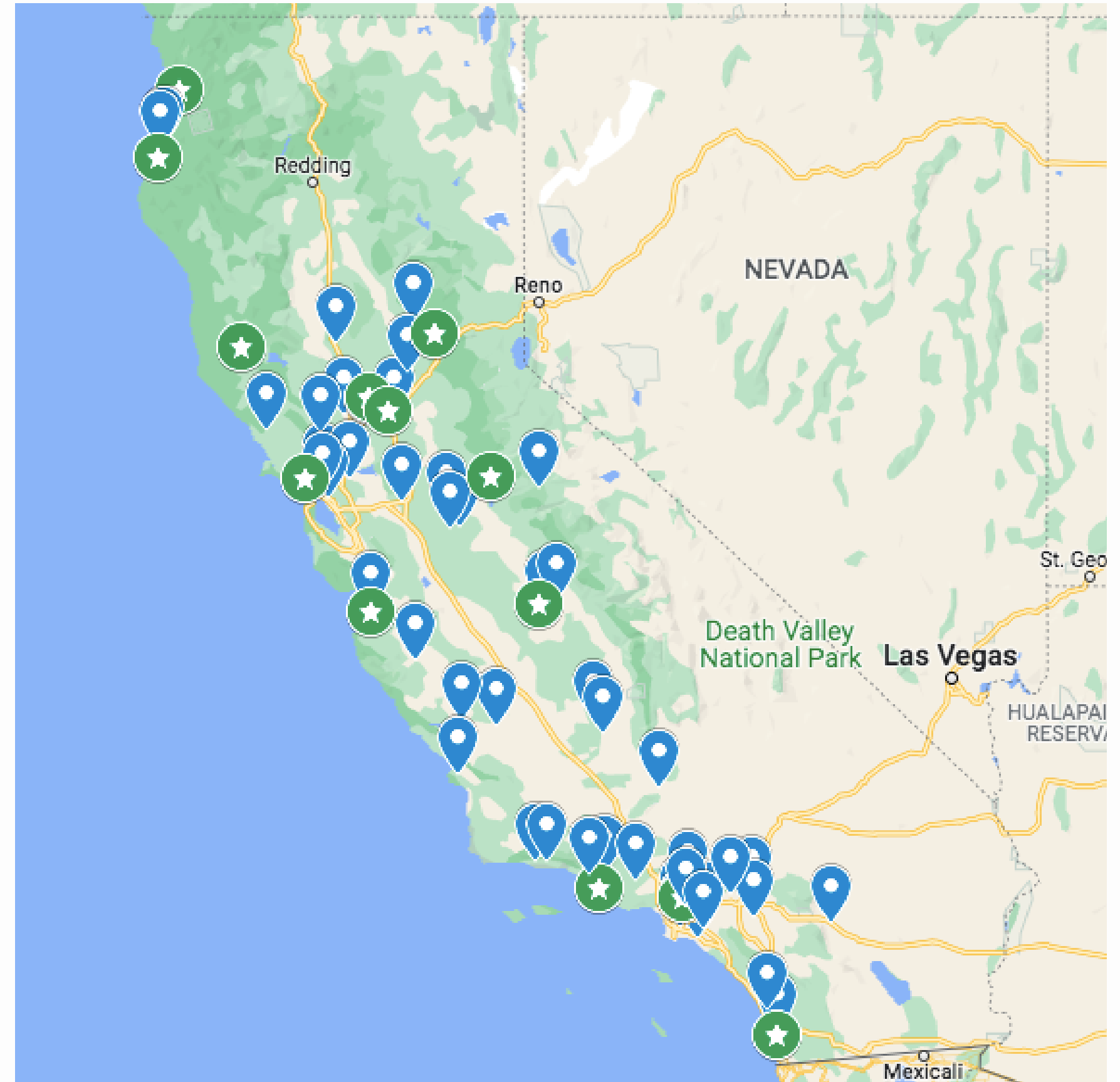
-  **SUPERIOR REGION**
-  **NORTH COAST REGION**
-  **BAY AREA REGION**
-  **CENTRAL REGION**
-  **SAN JOAQUIN REGION**
-  **SOUTH COAST REGION**
-  **GREATER LOS ANGELES REGION**
-  **SOUTHERN REGION**



- Ongoing relationship building and collaboration
- 2021 Virtual Conference, 350+ attendees
- Quarterly community of practice calls with guest experts, panels, and collaborative projects
- Hiring 16 regional staff this year

California Farm to School Incubator Grant 2021 - \$8.5M

- 60 grantees throughout the state
- Projects connect local food purchasing + student engagement
- Flexible funding and collaborative learning environment



Grantee Spotlight: Long Beach Unified

- Long Beach Unified School District
- Award Amount: \$500k
- Enrollment = 75,000+
- Build school gardens, hire educators
- Procure local, climate smart foods for school meals
- Leverage CDFA support to source locally and overcome supply chain issues



L B U S D

- Gardens are finally getting off the ground (literally)! We partnered with local non-profit Ground Education to build brand new gardens at Roosevelt and Addams Elementary. Both are large, urban K-5 elementary schools with very needy populations. We also received applications from 34 additional school sites (K-12) who will each receive a \$1,000 Garden Support Grant to refurbish, rebuild, and maintain their existing school gardens. All 34 sites had previously had a school garden of some sort, but all were unused and in various states of disrepair due to the year and a half COVID closure. We look forward to purchasing lots of supplies and plants for them in the 3rd and 4th quarters.
- We also made a fabulous connection with a family-owned farm in Riverside, Tarsadia Farms, to provide us with locally-grown organic oranges to serve in the cafeteria. We were able to visit the farm to make nutrition education materials to go along with the produce served. Our students are so excited to learn there are actual people (the Patel family!) who lovingly grow and harvest the food they eat. Making that personal connection has been a big boost for us and a great learning experience for our students.
- We had 100% fill rate on our deliveries from our direct ship and food hub vendors for grant-fund purchased locally-grown produce. That is the highest fill rate of all of our vendors!



Grantee Impacts from October - Dec 2021

- \$136,201 spent on CA grown whole or minimally processed foods
 - 90% of items are produce
 - 10% of items are organic grass-fed beef, eggs, and whole chickens
 - 69% of purchases were from small to midsize farms
 - 43% of purchases were direct from producer
- 105,300+ students engaged in educational activities
 - gardens, taste tests, classroom, field trips, etc.
- 21,341 school + community members engaged in farm to school activities
 - student run farmers markets, school garden workdays, community dinners, etc.



California Farm to School Incubator Grant 2022 - \$30M

- Application closes July 6th
- Funding range: \$150k - \$1m
- Flexible funding to advance F2S
 - Procurement + Education Grants
 - Early Care + Education Grants
 - Producer Grants
 - Partnership + Collaboration Grants
- Collaborative learning and support for grantees to create lasting impact
- Prioritizes HEALTHY, EQUITABLE, RESILIENT food system projects



Pause + Reflect:
**Are there any questions about these
foundational F2S programs?**

Roadmap Impacts and Recommendations

PLANTING THE SEED

Farm to School Roadmap for Success

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST PARTNER
Janifer D. Newton



Planting the Seed: F2S Roadmap



Interagency Working Group

Co-hosted by First Partner
Jennifer Siebel Newsom +
CDFA Secretary Karen Ross,
CDE, CDPH, CalEPA, the State
Board of Education, and others



Advisors + Working Group

14 advisors + 50 Working
Group Members from across
the state and across industries-
- School Food, Agriculture,
Education, and Data +
Research

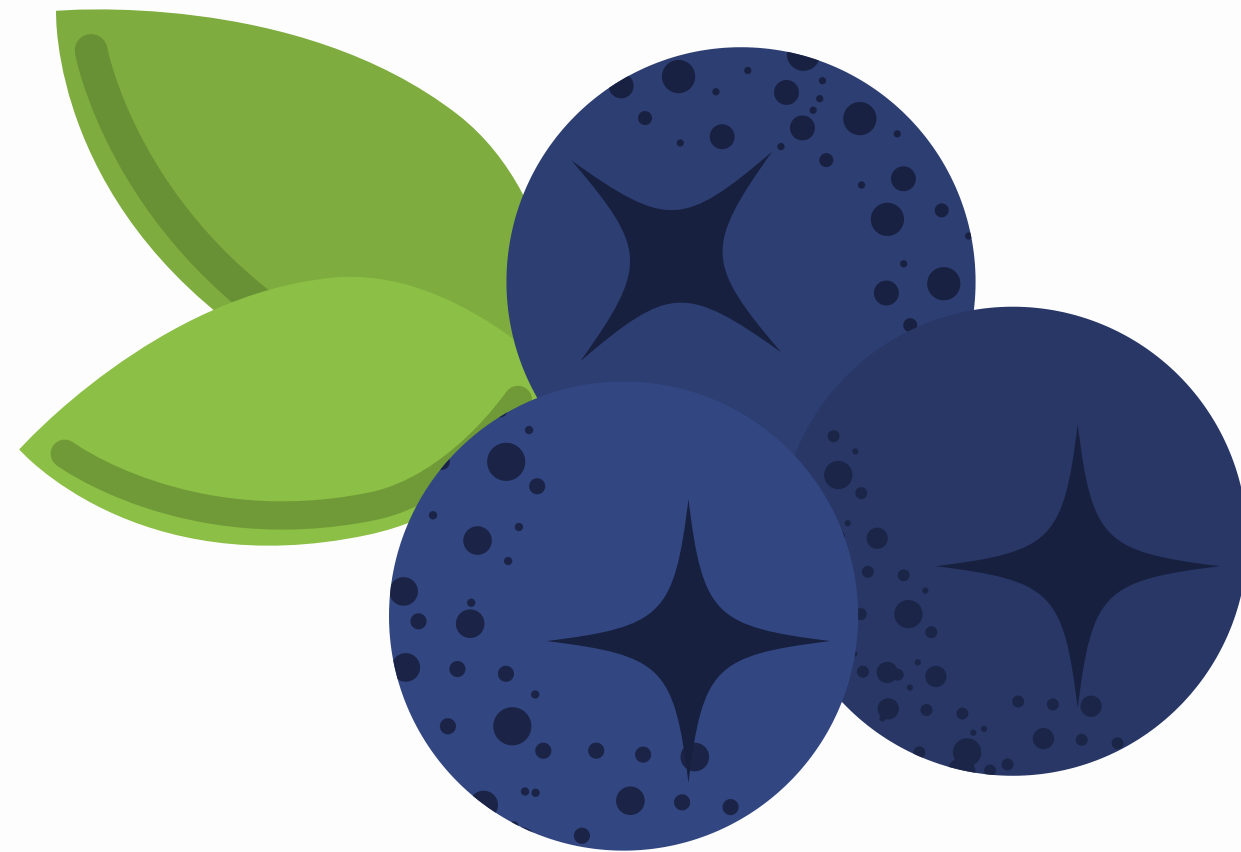


Stakeholder Participation

Over 200 total participants in
listening sessions, interviews,
and stakeholder engagement,
including youth + educator +
producer voices

Our Goals

Four High-Level Goals for the
Farm to School movement



1

Cultivate Equity

Create opportunities for those who have been historically excluded to improve the health and well-being of the people, places, and communities that define CA's food system.

2

Nurture Students

Engage students with nutritious, delicious, culturally relevant meals that nourish their bodies and minds

3

Build Climate Resilience

Leverage school buying power to support California producers and incentivize climate smart agriculture practices that promote climate resilience and environmental sustainability

4

Create Scalable and Sustainable Change

Implement policies and dedicate funding to create lasting impacts for local communities

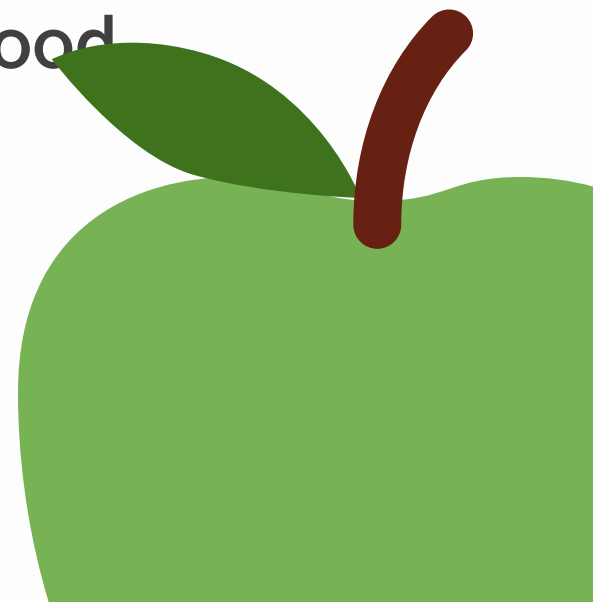
Roadmap Recommendations

- 1) Provide scalable support structures for farm to school growth
- 2) Transform school meal environments and experiences in collaboration with youth
- 3) Invest in school food careers and scratch cooking infrastructure
- 4) Develop model food education standards and expand youth leadership opportunities
- 5) Strengthen relationships between producers and schools
- 6) Expand and create inclusive access to school food markets for a wide range of California producers
- 7) Change the culture of school food through storytelling
- 8) Establish consistent impact metrics for California farm to school



Recommendations + Funding

- 2021/2022 Budget includes:
 - School Meals for All!
 - \$30m one-time for the CA F2S Incubator Grant
 - \$150m school kitchen infrastructure and training
 - \$15m Farm to Community Food Hubs
- Governor Newsom proposed:
 - \$3m ongoing for 16 regional F2S staff to grow the F2S Network
 - \$60m one-time funding to expand CA F2S Incubator Grant
 - \$450m school kitchen infrastructure and training (up to \$600m)
 - \$45m School Food Apprenticeship Program
- In June, USDA announced additional funding and framework to transform the school food system
 - USDA LFS - \$23m local food for schools
 - USDA Framework - more resilient, fairer, accessibility + affordability, equity
 - Billion dollars of investments in supply chain, school food, and other programs



Pause + Reflect:

**How does your work intersect with these
funding opportunities and the
recommendations in the roadmap?**

What Comes Next



California Farm to School Incubator Grant Application Closes July 6

Up to \$1m in funding for farm to school projects. Info sessions and q+a available for partners and public

Promoting "Planting the Seed" Roadmap

Utilize communications toolkit to share impacts and recommendations to broad audience, coordinating responses and opportunities with CDFA staff

Coordinating ongoing programming

Work with CDFA-F2F to implement cross-cutting recommendations and create lasting change in the school food system

Contact: Nick Anicich, Farm to School Program Manager
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