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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EIGHT GEORGIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS AWARDED \$13,500 IN GEORGIA ORGANICS FARM TO SCHOOL INNOVATION MINI GRANTS

(ATLANTA) – Jan. 18, 2023 – [Georgia Organics](https://www.georgiaorganics.org) is excited to announce that eight Georgia school districts have been awarded a **2023 Farm to School Innovation Mini Grant**. A total of \$13,500 will support projects that create and share equity-centered farm to school best practices in the following school districts:

- **Dawson County School District** (28 Main St., Dawsonville, GA 30534)
- **Effingham County School District** (405 North Ash St., Springfield, GA 31329)
- **Emanuel County School District** (201 N. Main St., Swainsboro, GA 30401)
- **Fannin County School District** (6145 Old Hwy 76, Blue Ridge, GA 30153)
- **Hall County School District** (711 Green St., Gainesville, GA 30501)
- **Morgan County School District** (1065 East Ave., Madison, GA 30650)
- **Treutlen County School District** (7892 GA Hwy 29, Soperton, GA 30457)
- **Chattahoochee Hills Charter School** (9760 Rivertown Rd., Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30213)

“Georgia Organics is proud to seed farm to school innovations in Georgia school districts with these mini-grants. We look forward to learning along with awardees and sharing their progress widely,” said Kimberly Della Donna, Community Collaborations Director at Georgia Organics. “The access and equity-focused best practices developed through these projects will serve as models for farm to school programs in our state and nationwide.”

In partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Georgia Organics Farm to School Innovation Mini Grant was created in 2022 to support appropriate farm to school activities as schools regrouped from COVID-19 pandemic closures.

The goals of the program are to strengthen the community of Georgia farm to school champions, to gather data and best practices, to advance Health and Racial Equity and overall to encourage innovative farm to school efforts. During the inaugural year 2021-2022 school year, Georgia Organics [provided \\$500 each to fifteen Georgia school districts](#) to support farm to school innovation projects.



In 2023, Georgia Organics expanded the program with funding generously provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Newman's Own Foundation. The awardees were chosen through a competitive application process that evaluated projects based on their alignment with the outlined priority areas: were chosen through a competitive application process that evaluated projects based on their alignment with the outlined priority areas:

- increase access to local, fresh, organically grown food,
- include culturally responsive food and education,
- include organic and/or sustainability focused garden education,
- increase local food procurement,
- and/or benefit Georgia certified organic farmers in other ways.

All awardees were required to participate in a Health & Racial Equity training to inform these concepts and their application in farm to school programming. Additionally, awardees are offered the opportunity for networking and peer learning at the Georgia Organics Conference & Expo in Perry, GA, February 16-18, 2023. Tickets for the conference are available at georgiaorganics.org/conference.

Mini Grant projects will be implemented during the spring of 2023. Updates will be shared on Georgia Organics' blog and e-newsletter The Dirt, sign-up at bit.ly/thedirtsignup.

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About Georgia Organics

Georgia Organics (georgiaorganics.org/) is an Atlanta-based, member-supported nonprofit organization with the mission of investing in organic farmers for the health of our communities and the land. Since the 1970s, we have provided direct support to small and organic Georgia farmers. Georgia Organics became a 501(c)(3) in 1997; we have been led since 2004 by President & CEO Alice Rolls. Georgia Organics champions organic agriculture, healthy families, food justice, and environmental stewardship by prioritizing farmer prosperity, fostering improved school nutrition, and collaborating with local food partners across the state for a more resilient local food movement. Visit georgiaorganics.org to learn more. Georgia Organics program teams are: Farmer Services and Community Collaboration, which represents our Farm to School, Farmer Champion, and Family Farm Share work. Our statewide work, including our annual Georgia Organics Conference & Expo, is fueled by the support of our members, partners, and generous donors. Visit georgiaorganics.org and our blog, thedirt.georgiaorganics.org, to read about our purpose, people, and programs. Follow us at Facebook.com/georgiaorganics, and [@georgiaorganics](https://Instagram.com/georgiaorganics) on Instagram and Twitter, as well as LinkedIn and YouTube.