Georgia Farm to School Alliance and Farm to Early Care and Education Coalition

Annual Impact Report
School Year 2021-2022
Alliance and Coalition Collective Impact

The Georgia Farm to School (FTS) Alliance (Alliance) serves K-12 students and systems while the Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education (FTECE) Coalition (Coalition) focuses on children aged zero to five. The 2021-2025 Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education Coalition and Georgia Farm to School Alliance Strategic Plans were created with 53 partner organizations including K-12 school staff, ECE professionals, non-profits, health systems, universities, and state agencies.

This Annual Impact Report summarizes a member impact survey and documents progress towards the strategic plan goals during the 2021-2022 school year.

Jointly, the Alliance and Coalition:
- Increase the knowledge and understanding of FTECE and FTS practices among stakeholders through workshops, webinars, and publications.
- Support policy, systems, and environmental changes to institutionalize FTS and FTECE.
- Evaluate activities to determine the highest impact strategies that achieve FTS and FTECE visions.

The Alliance and Coalition share a joint Equity Vision:
Members agree that together we hold the collective potential to advance equity statewide by supporting access to healthy, fresh, and affordable foods and culturally responsive nutrition education for all children and families. We will integrate health, food, racial, and social equity in Farm to School and Farm to ECE through awareness, collaboration, and action among our partners and stakeholders.

“Racial and Health Equity is the guiding force in our work. We endeavor to focus our efforts in under-resourced and historically marginalized communities...and we seek to facilitate distribution of resources with the direction of community members who know best what is wanted and needed.” -Alliance Member

Alliance and Coalition members have nearly 44 positions dedicating over 840 hours to FTS and/or FTECE responsibilities.

84% of respondents have an equity statement that align with Alliance and Coalition equity language.

Where do Alliance and Coalition members work?

50% invest in rural counties
84% support programs in non-rural counties with limited access to affordable and nutritious foods
100% work in under-resourced areas with high rates of poverty and low-earning income tax base

Houston County School District
The Georgia Farm to School (FTS) Alliance is a network of food, farming, and nutrition stakeholders working to coalesce resources and to support farm to school (K-12) programming statewide.

Vision: The Farm to School model will be seen as the best way to equitably connect cafeterias, classrooms, and communities to enhance the health and development of Georgia students.

Mission: Our mission is to engage Farm to School stakeholders by providing resources, professional development, and recognition programs to increase the awareness, access and consumption of locally grown food in school meals and beyond.

Why Members Participate

“We see the importance of exposing young kids to agriculture to help build a sustainable community food system and support our local farming communities.” - Alliance Member

“FTS strategies are the best way to increase children’s consumption of fruits and vegetables...[we participate in the Alliance] because it’s a great community of forward-thinking individuals” - Alliance Member

Georgia FTS Alliance Members

- Athens Land Trust
- American Heart Association*
- Captain Planet Foundation
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
- Columbus Botanical Gardens
- Common Market Southeast
- Flint River Fresh Inc.*
- FoodCorps Georgia
- Georgia Agricultural Education
- Georgia Department of Education*
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Family Connections Partnership
- Georgia Farm Bureau
- Georgia FCCLA
- Georgia Health Policy Center*
- Georgia Organics*
- Georgia School Nutrition Association
- HealthMPowers
- Kaiser Permanente
- Muscogee County Schools
- Newton County School District
- Royal Food Service
- Savannah Chatham County Schools*
- Small Bite’s Adventure Club*
- The Food Mill Columbus
- The Wylde Center*
- United Way of Atlanta
- University of Georgia*
- University of Georgia Cooperative Extension*
- USDA Food and Nutrition Services Southeast Region

*Indicates member completed the 2021-2022 Annual Impact Survey
We were thrilled to partner with fifteen Georgia school nutrition departments to support FTS Innovation projects throughout the state. Through their work and reporting, our mini-grantee partners showed us what resources schools need to successfully implement strong programs... and also how much fun FTS is for students!” - Alliance Member

Responding Alliance members provided or attended 140 presentations, training, technical assistance opportunities, and/or exhibits/expos/poster sessions. Ninety percent of the activities focused on curriculum development for nutrition education.

Community Partnership Success Stories

“We have grown our partnership with the non-profit Loop It Up Savannah. They help maintain school gardens at some of our schools with a high percentage of free/reduced students and bring FTS curriculum into after school programming.” - Alliance Member

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FTS Services and Resources

Alliance members provided approximately 50 grants, 100 awards and 20 incentives to support local, regional and statewide FTS efforts.
Established in 2015, the Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition joins stakeholders in ECE, farming, and nutrition to coalesce resources and build statewide FTECE programming.

Vision: All Georgia early learners and their families have equitable access to nourishing, local food.

Mission: Our mission is to cultivate partnerships among early care environments, farmers, and community partners to increase local food access, strengthen nutrition education, and improve health equity for families.

This Annual Impact Report represents data from fifteen Coalition members.

**Georgia FTECE Coalition Members**

- A Kid’s World
- Action Pact
- American Heart Association*
- Baldwin County School District
- Bemiss Academy
- Black Child Development Institute – Atlanta*
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta*
- Children’s Museum of Atlanta
- Common Market Southeast
- ESP Head Start Inc.
- FoodCorps Georgia
- Flint River Fresh Inc.*
- GEEARS
- Georgia Association for the Education of Young Children
- Georgia Child Care Association
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)*
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Human Services - SNAP ED
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Family Connection Partnership*
- Georgia Foundation for Agriculture
- Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office
- Georgia Health Policy Center*
- Georgia Organics*
- Georgia State University
- Greenbriar Children’s Center*
- Hand Heart and Soul Project*
- HealthMPowers*
- Lina Lane’s Learning Center*
- Little Ones Learning Center
- Miss Dayana’s Daycare
- New Life Learning Center
- Organwise Guys
- Pre-K Preparatory Academy
- Professional Family Childcare Association of Georgia
- Quality Care for Children*
- Rex Childcare and Early Learning Center
- Sandy’s Sandbox
- Savannah Chatham County Public Schools
- Sheltering Arms
- Small Bites Adventure Club*
- Southern Crescent Technical College
- Southwest Georgia Project
- Teach O’ Rea Preparatory Preschool
- Tee Tee’s Learning Center
- The Learning Tree Academy
- The Wylde Center*
- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- University of Georgia*
- University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
- USDA Food and Nutrition Services, Southeast Regional Office
- Voices for Georgia’s Children*

*Indicates member completed the 2021-2022 Annual Impact Survey

**Why Members Participate**

"We believe large-scale social problems can’t be solved in silos. The Coalition gives us an opportunity to meet, engage and align with partners with similar values and priorities."

"We participate in the [Coalition] because we understand the value of connecting your children to where their food comes from, the impact hands-on food & garden education has on learning, the opportunities for family engagement created, and the importance of connecting with local communities and farmers."
FTECE members provided or attended nearly 190 FTECE presentations, training/workshops, technical assistance, and exhibits/expos/poster sessions. Ninety percent of the activities focused on curriculum development for nutrition education.

Community Partnership Success Stories

"Students love fruits and vegetables due to the hands-on gardening, taste tests, Farm to ECE instruction, and healthy meals and snacks.... "My son loves gardening and this has increased the number of veggies and fruits he eats," says one mom. She also reported that his love of these healthy foods has positively affected their family grocery store list, adding more fruits and vegetables to their shopping carts and ultimately to their plates."

“Many of the teachers in our early learning programs had never had red cabbage before...whether from the grocery store or the farmer's market. When our food coordinator prepared the cabbage from the Farmer's Market both children AND teachers were trying side by side for the first time...and it was VERY popular! We heard comments for weeks afterward about how much the staff enjoyed it!”