

# FOOD AND NUTRITION PROCEDURES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# B18

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Subject: **SCHOOL GARDEN TO CAFETERIA**

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to incorporate school grown garden produce into the school food service program to encourage sustainable environmental practices.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **General Information**

School Garden to Cafeteria initiatives allow food service staff to serve produce grown by teachers and students in school gardens through the school meal program. Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Department of Food and Nutrition encourages schools and food service staff to incorporate garden-to-cafeteria in their existing meal programs using this procedure. This initiative is one of several components of the Farm to School Program which seeks to improve student nutrition, support local farmers, increase environmental sustainability, and reduce environmental pollution caused by the long transport of food by providing locally grown foods at school meals.

The National Farm to School Network defines Farm to School as "a comprehensive program that extends beyond farm fresh salad bars and local foods in the cafeteria to include waste management programs like composting and experiential education opportunities such as planting school gardens, cooking demonstrations and farm tours". Garden to Cafeteria provides students hands-on opportunities to learn about science and nutrition which has been proven to increase children's consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.<sup>1</sup> Since school garden-grown produce and herbs are available within a day of harvest and often grown using organic methods, students are provided with the freshest and healthiest items available.

For procedures on prevention of contamination and proper handling of harvested produce and herbs from school garden refer to procedure [H-21 Sanitation and Safety of School Garden to Cafeteria](#).

*For Action By: Principals, Food Service Managers and Satellite Assistants  
Refer Questions to: Department of Food and Nutrition*

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*Revised: July 2022, July 2023*

*Reviewed: June 2024*

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1 Schaidle, Corinne E., "Use of School Gardens in Farm to School Programs" (2011). Research Papers. Paper 108.

[http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/gs\\_rp/108](http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/gs_rp/108)

2 <http://www.farmentoschool.org>