Why Farm to School?
Over the last 30 years, approximately 12.5 million children and adolescents have been classified obese as the U.S. obesity rate has tripled to 17 percent. The Florida Farm to School (FFTS) Program is working to address the obesity epidemic by educating children on the source of their food, healthy food choices, and encouraging the procurement of fresh, locally-sourced foods for school cafeterias.

Objective
The objective of the FFTS Program is to assist in connecting schools with local growers and ranchers to serve fresh and nutritious Florida commodities in school cafeterias as well as to educate students on making healthier food choices.

How can farmers participate?
Florida growers can be involved in helping youth make healthier food choices by:
- Selling their commodities to school systems
- Participating in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Statewide bid
- Strengthening the distribution channels to schools
- Participating in farm tours for students and school district staff
- Visiting classrooms and school events to educate on farm practices
- Assisting with school gardens and other agriculture related activities

Conclusion
The goal of the FFTS is to improve the health and welfare of Florida’s children by creative interaction with food, agriculture, nutrition, and the environment, while making a positive contribution to Florida’s agricultural economy.

Want more information?
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