

Minnesota Farm to School Institute School Team Evaluation Criteria



The school application is used to gain an understanding of each applicant's school community and existing farm to school efforts. We aim to build a diverse cohort of teams that have both similarities and opportunities to share lessons learned with others. We are looking for schools that prioritize making their farm to school program inclusive of diverse students and community members, equitable, and incorporating opportunities for youth and community leadership.

We use the following criteria to evaluate all applications:

- **Team composition (5 points):** The team has at least one member from each of the following roles: school nutrition, administrator, and educator.
- **Diversity and Inclusion (10 points):** We prioritize teams with greater student diversity, and consider metrics such as the percentage of students participating who qualify for educational benefits, ethnicity composition of the student body, school location (rural/urban), and other demographic information (e.g. income level and ethnicity composition of the geographic region).
- **Team readiness (20 points):** The team demonstrates some experience in Farm to School and is in a suitable phase to receive support and continue to grow their program
- **3Cs mindset (20 points):** The team has a good understanding of the 3Cs (classroom, cafeteria, and community) and intends to use an integrated approach to bring the three components together.
- **Equity (10 points):** The team has clear goals for centering equity in their FTS work, and demonstrates how the Institute will benefit their equity work.
- **Sustainability (15 points):** The team has a clear commitment to FTS, and has in-place or identified strategy and additional resources to sustain their FTS work.
- **The "why" (20 points):** The team has a clear "why" for their FTS work, and can explain how their goals align with the Institute's vision.