Assessment criteria / menu of tactics for:

Instructions

1. Review the assessment before beginning.

2. Check off statements that reflect your early learning site's experience at least 50% / the majority of the time.

3. Tally the score.

4. Discuss the results with your coalition / team / stakeholders.

5. Work with Montana Food Economy Initiative mentor and your team to choose unchecked strategies to implement in your farm to ECE program.

### Education and Gardening

## 1. In-Classroom Activities

Children are educated about locally grown food, how food grows and/or where it comes from.

Children are continuously exposed to new farm to early care activities and resources that engage them in a variety of Montana's Early Learning Standards.

Students engage in cooking lessons with local or garden-harvested ingredients that meet Montana's Early Learning Standards.

Taste tests are conducted with the children using the Tried it, Liked it, or Loved it system.

## 2. Gardening Activities

Dur program manages an edible garden site.

- Dildren are provided with hands-on experiential learning in an edible garden.
- Barden harvests are used to supplement program meals.

## 3. Experiences (field trips, classroom visits, virtual tours)

Children have the opportunity to connect with food system players (i.e. farmers, chefs, processors, etc.) through field trips.

Children have the opportunity to connect with food system players through classroom visits.

Children have the opportunity to connect with food system players through field videos and virtual tours.

## Food Procurement and Preparation

## 4. Variety and Frequency of Local Food

Dur program purchases locally grown foods once a month.

Dur program purchases locally grown foods more than once a month.

Dildren are served a wide variety of locally grown foods.

## 5. Sources of Local Food

Dur program purchases local food items directly from a farmer, farmers market, or CSA share.

Our program purchases local food items from a grocery store or broadline distributor (ex. Sysco)

Dur program collaborates with community partners to purchase local food items.

#### 6. Scratch cooking, preservation, and storage capacity

Dur program is well equipped and knowledgeable to scratch cook with local food items or garden produce.

Our program is well equipped and knowledgeable to preserve and store local food items or garden produce.

Our program is well equipped and knowledgeable to involve children in the preparation and cooking of local food items or garden produce.

Outreach and Promotion

### 7. Parent/Family engagement

Family and community members are engaged in our farm to early care efforts through posters, educational materials, and newsletter updates.

Our program holds family and community engagement events involving farm to early care such as garden days or cooking nights.

Dur program is engaged in community partnerships, enabling us to obtain benefits such as additional funds, volunteer work, mutual aid, etc.

### Tally the scores

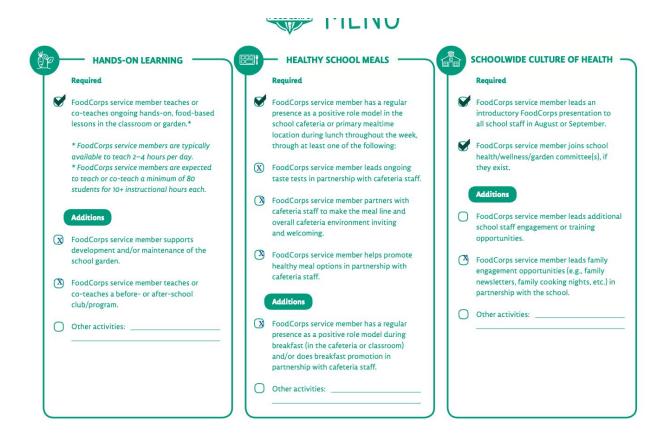
Education & Gardening \_\_\_\_\_ of 12 Local Food Procurement and Preparation \_\_\_\_\_ of Outreach & Promotion \_\_\_\_\_ of

# What are the top 3 areas where your team would like support from the MFEI mentors?

Tell us about the resources you need: equipment, supplies, training, new systems, funds

https://www.montana.edu/teamnutrition/smartpleasantmeals/smartcafes.html

From FoodCorps: Menu and Action Planning



National Farm to School Network

- **Procurement:** Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test;
- School gardens: Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening; and
- Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition.

#### NFSN ECE 2018 survey

Shows what activities ECE is doing with F2S already <u>http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/ECESurvey18-FactSheet.pdf</u> <u>http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/ECESurvey18-Infographic.pdf</u>

## F2S GA Assessment Tool

https://ncatorg-my.sharepoint.com/personal/keim\_ncat\_org/Documents/MDA%20Farm%20to%2 0School/Assessments,%20Surveys,%20Evaluations/GA-Assessment-Tool-1-April-2015-FINAL. pdf?CT=1605650675689&OR=ItemsView

USDA Farm to School Census Survey

7. From the list below, please select the most appropriate category your achievement (described above) would fall under. Please check one. The examples are offered to help you identify the best category, but don't feell limited by them.

Farm to School School Team (creating a team or working with project partners)
Vision, Goals, and Context (planning and setting goals for your project)
ü Local Foods Procurement (purchasing and serving local foods in school meals)
Food Service Supplies or Infrastructure (getting new equipment for transporting, processing, storing, preparing or serving local foods)
Menu Planning (program budgeting or menu and recipe development using local foods)
Food Safety (working with state or local requirements and training related to best practices)
Promotion and Outreach (prom otion or outreach to students, parents, teachers, administrators, producers, food service staff, media, or the community)
School Gardens (planning, maintaining, training or using local foods from school gardens)
Education/Curriculum Integration (developing or implementing new educational programs or curriculum)
Evaluation (program planning or results from program evaluation activities)
Program Sustainability (creating greater institutional or community support or obtaining additional funds/funding streams)

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Nothing at this time