WHY FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION?

According to the OEC, 1 IN 2 CHILDREN ages 1-5 do not eat a daily vegetable and 1 IN 3 CHILDREN ages 1-5 do not eat a daily fruit.

Farm to ECE INCREASES children’s consumption of fruits and vegetables by ONE DAILY SERVING.

Farm to ECE programs can INCREASE THE SUCCESS of Farm to School programs by DECREASING PLATE WASTE by as much as 66%.

Click here for a full list of Farm to Early Care and Education benefits.

THE OHIO FARM TO ECE COALITION HAS IMPACTED:

164,319 children

149 ECEs

447 ECE educators

Tools and Resources

CREATED VIDEOS AND ONE-PAGERS on the safe handling of local foods in ECE sites that will be incorporated into professional development training for ECE educators statewide.

PROVIDED GARDENING MATERIALS and resources including SEED STARTING KITS and RAISED BED MATERIALS to ECEs.

TRANSLATED Farm to ECE RESOURCES into SPANISH to increase accessibility.

Community Building

ESTABLISHED strong PARTNERSHIP with OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY (OSU) EXTENSION and received funds from OSU Initiative for Food and Agricultural Transformation to support Farm to ECE work.

IMPLEMENTED A LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT PILOT with 7 ECE SITES to provide training to support purchase and serving of local foods.

DEVELOPED A DISSEMINATION PLAN and ROADMAP to reach underserved populations with Farm to ECE.

Equity Focus

WERked WITH AN EQUITY CONSULTANT to center equity in the coalition’s Farm to ECE efforts.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“A big goal of mine is to build in local purchasing, healthy eating initiatives, and a garden program as just something we do every day, not something on the side. Changing that mindset of what children should eat is at the forefront of everything we do.”

— Ohio ECE Educator

To learn more about Farm to ECE in Ohio, click here.