

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Office of Nutrition Services

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CCSD and Local Farmers Celebrate Farm to School Month

Charleston, SC — Nearly one ton of local produce will make its way to Charleston County school cafeterias the week of October 3 to celebrate National Farm to School Month.

Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Office of Nutrition Services is partnering with Joseph Fields Farm of John's Island and Sweetbay Produce and Nursery of Huger in order to provide freshly harvested crops for school lunches.

Students at Mary Ford Elementary, Haut Gap Middle, E. B. Ellington Elementary, James Simons Elementary, Burke High, Charleston Development Academy, Simmons-Pinckney Middle, and St. John's High will enjoy local, organic produce all-month long. School lunch menus will feature green beans, new potatoes, broccoli, butter beans, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, kale, and hydroponically-grown bibb and leaf lettuces.

In 2010, Congress declared October National Farm to School Month, recognizing the important role farm to school plays in promoting well-being among children and strong local economies.

"Farm to school is an important tool in the fight against childhood obesity and food insecurity," said Anupama Joshi, Executive Director of the National Farm to School Network. "There are economic benefits as well. During the 2013-2014 school year, local food purchases by schools returned more than \$789 million back to local economies."

Follow the excitement on Facebook by searching "CCSD Nutrition Services," on Twitter @CCSDschoolmeals, or via the hashtag **#F2SMonth**.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.