



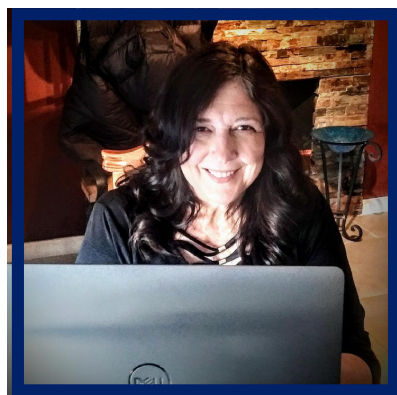
Arizona Farm to School Network Leadership

Helping public schools and preschools source fresh, healthy and local foods for meals and snacks.

Network Support Chairs

Work on the 30,000-foot goals for farm to school/ECE programs at the local, regional and state-level. This includes:

- Tracking policy that supports fresh food access to low-resourced communities,
- Insisting equal access to resources for farm to school/ECE program development,
- Leveraging community resources to support farm to school/ECE activities,
- Supporting work groups as much as possible.



Michele Mellot,
Co-Chair,
Arizona Department of
Agriculture
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Jessie Gruner,
Policy Chair,
Pinnacle Prevention
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Jesse Davenport,
Vice Chair,
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Jayson Matthews,
Development Chair,
Valley of the Sun
United Way
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NEW
Vacant
Equity & Inclusion Chair,

Farm to School & Early Care Education (ECE) is:

Children planting, harvesting and tasting fresh foods from the garden!

Meeting a farmer or visiting a farm!

Access to a variety of fresh and seasonal foods no matter a child's location

Celebrating culture & food-ways that are important to a community



Regional Chairs

In summer 2021, Regional chairs will be added to the the Arizona Farm to School Network Structure. Chairs will be selected from within the AZ Health Zone, Local Implementing Agency network. This federally funded fleet of practitioners work by county in eligible communities to support childhood nutrition programs and local food systems. This includes:

- Training schools/ECEs how to implement and sustain gardens
- Training schools/ECEs how to purchase locally sourced or available foods for use in meal programs,
- Training schools/ECEs to utilize Local Wellness Policies and/or organizational policy to support farm to- related best practices,
- Support improvements in nutrition practices and environments,
- Leveraging community resources to support farm to school/ECE activities and,
- Train, support, connect small farmers and growers in techniques, business practices, and diversified markets.



For interest in a vacant chair position, email
ArizonaFarmtoSchool@azed.gov!





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Network Integral Chairs

Work on project-based solutions to barriers in farm to school/ECE program development. This includes:

- Convening with stakeholders regularly to address barriers,
- Identifying potential solutions for individual and collective communities,
- Sharing best-practices used in Arizona, and
- Elevates high-level needs that require state-level attention.



**Patty Emmert,
Production Chair**

Duncan Family Farms
patty@duncanfamilyfarms.net



**Jillianne Sundberg
Procurement Chair,**

(Former) Osborn School District
jillianne.sundberg@gmail.com

Procurement Work Group

The Procurement Work Group is co-facilitated by experts in school nutrition and farming. This work group has spent the last few years studying local fruit and vegetable purchases with community-supported funds to understand procurement practices, price thresholds, distribution, and service models across a variety of school districts.



**Paige Mollen
Education Chair**

Mollen Foundation
paigemollen@mollenfoundation.org

Food Education Work Group

The Food Education Work Group is facilitated by an expert in curriculum development and the array of educational platforms that are used to deliver food, nutrition and/or agriculture experiences to students.



**Ashley Schimke,
School Garden Co-Chair,**

Arizona Department of
Education
Ashley.Schimke@azed.gov



**Jayson Matthews,
School Garden Co-Chair,**

Valley of the
Sun United Way
jayson.matthews@gmail.com

School Garden Work Group

The School Garden Work Group is facilitated by an experts in school garden program development. Both are certified Master Gardeners for Maricopa County and have worked with school garden grantees under various grant programs.



**Ashley Grabb,
Farm to ECE Co-Chair**

Maricopa County
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**Hope Wilson,
Farm to ECE Co-Chair**

UA Cooperative
Extension
hopewilson@cals.arizona.edu

Farm to ECE Work Group

The Farm to ECE Work Group is facilitated by two experts in food systems, nutrition and Early Care Education. This work group has spent the last two years working on building professional development resources for ECE Professionals on Farm to ECE for the state of Arizona. This work group joined the Network in March 2020.