**The Farm to School Mapping Project**

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**Abstract.** As a fellow for The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, I have been working directly with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and COFSAC for the better part of two years creating the Farm to School Mapping Project. This project's backbone was an analysis of the local food purchases of all participating school districts in the Local Food Program (LFP) in school years (21-22) and for CDE’s legislative report on the LFP for the Governor’s office in year (22-23). COFSAC is a Governor-appointed body whose charge is to advance policy recommendations that strengthen healthy food access for all Coloradans through Colorado agriculture, local food systems and economies. The LFP stimulates CDE’s direct interaction within Colorado’s food economy and increase access to healthy local food. The LFP provides the opportunity to create efficient systems and methodologies for CDE to accurately collect and track data on school districts local food procurement, and boost their purchase of local food. CDE never attempted any centralized tracking of its districts local food purchases before the LFP deployment. My research has focused on two main facets; 1) What is the methodology institutions use for tracking and displaying local food purchasing? 2) What are the current local food purchasing trends for CDE? I disseminate my deliverables through ARC GIS Dashboards & StoryMaps to disseminate my findings. The Farm to School Mapping Project provides an unprecedented look at the CDE’s interaction with the local food economy, and the built infrastructure of Colorado’s food system. These visualizations serve both CDE's procurement specialists, Colorado's producers, small businesses, as well as all students who are in K-12 Institutions benefitting from the national school lunch program. This is an essential movement for the development of food sovereignty and access throughout Colorado.