



Quincy Farm to School Planning Team





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-  Help Quincy's school children embrace healthy eating by deepening connections to locally grown foods AND
-  Establish school gardens district-wide by 2020





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Germantown Neighborhood Center/SSYMCA



QPS Food Services



Farm to School Readiness Assessment

Menu Planning and Sourcing:

- **Challenges:**

- Growing season and volumes
- Direct dealings with farmers during the school year
- Bid flexibility
- Local food options requirement for suppliers

- **Opportunities:**

- More flexible vendor selection
- Incorporate harvest from expanded school gardens
- Expanding buying collaboratives: **MA aggregate purchasing cooperatives**

QPS Food Services Program Display



Farm to School Readiness Assessment

Education:

- **Challenges:**

- Limited grant-funded programming
- Curriculum that reflects Quincy's unique needs
- Time and budget limitations

- **Opportunities:**

- Lots of staff interest
- Strengthen F2S connection to Alliance for a Healthier Generation and Next Generation Science Standards
- Identify grant funding for curriculum development
- **Congress proposed an increase in annual mandatory F2S program funding from \$5 million to \$15 million!!!**

Teacher Training at Holly Hill Farm



Farm to School Readiness Assessment

Equipment:

- ***Challenges:***

- Elementary kitchens very limited.
- NQHS packing line could expand to enable elementary side salad.

- ***Opportunities:***

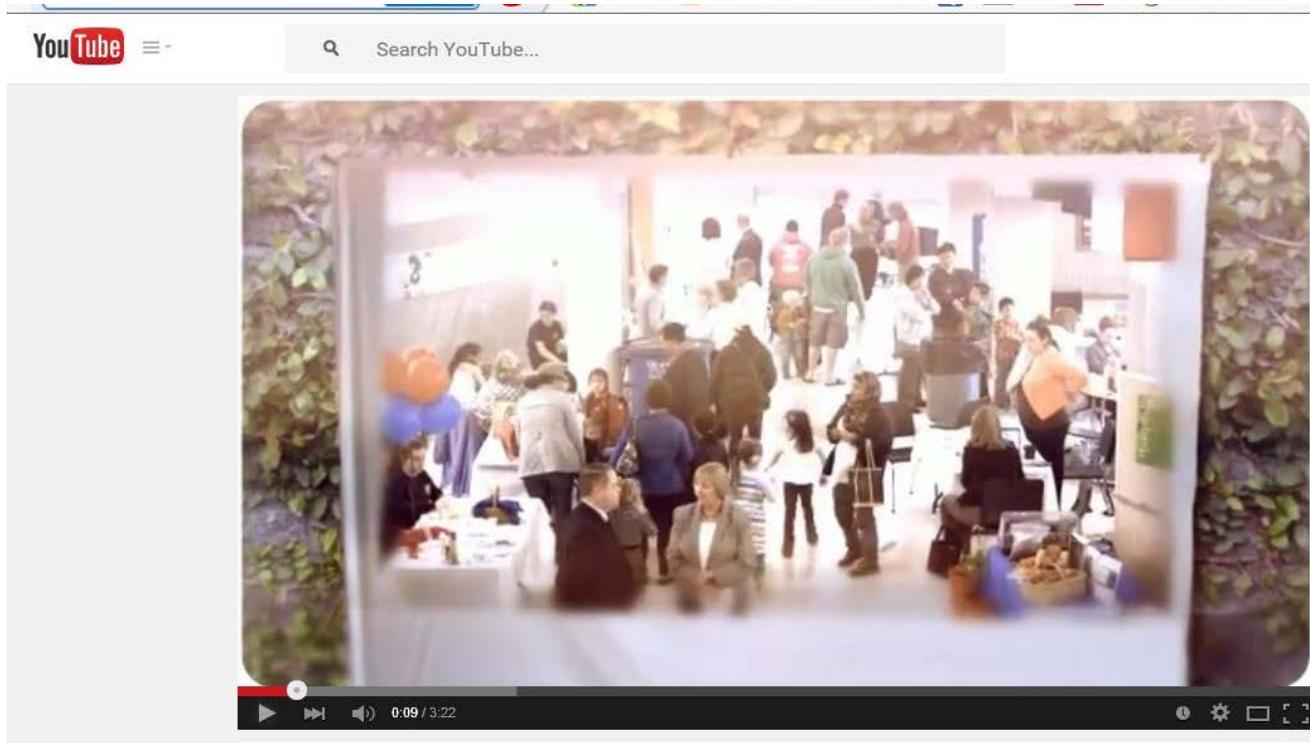
- QHS has a new commercial processor;
- Composting pilot is being discussed through a collaborative effort of QPS and DPW
- Funding for a salad bar at both High Schools is being explored



Quincy Farm to School 1st Annual EXPO April 29, 2015



Watch video @ <https://youtu.be/RmTSgUEJS88>



Quincy School Committee @ F2S EXPO

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FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM – Joanne Morrissey (left), Food Service Director, School Committee member Barbara Isola, Rita Bailey, Health Services Coordinator and School Committee member Noel DiBona attended the recent Farm to School Expo at Quincy High. Farm to School is a new Quincy Public Schools program. Its goal is to grow local healthy food for children.
Photo Courtesy Noel DiBona

F2S Survey of Expo Participants

- 57% of respondents have a garden at home
- 58% have never visited local farms
- 96% said yes, important to have local farms;
- 100% yes, good goal to have schools gardens;
- 83% enjoyed food tasting & children's activities; 78% enjoyed information

Farm to School Readiness Assessment

Community Involvement and Promotions:

- **Challenges:**

- So many partners, so little time!

- **Opportunities:**

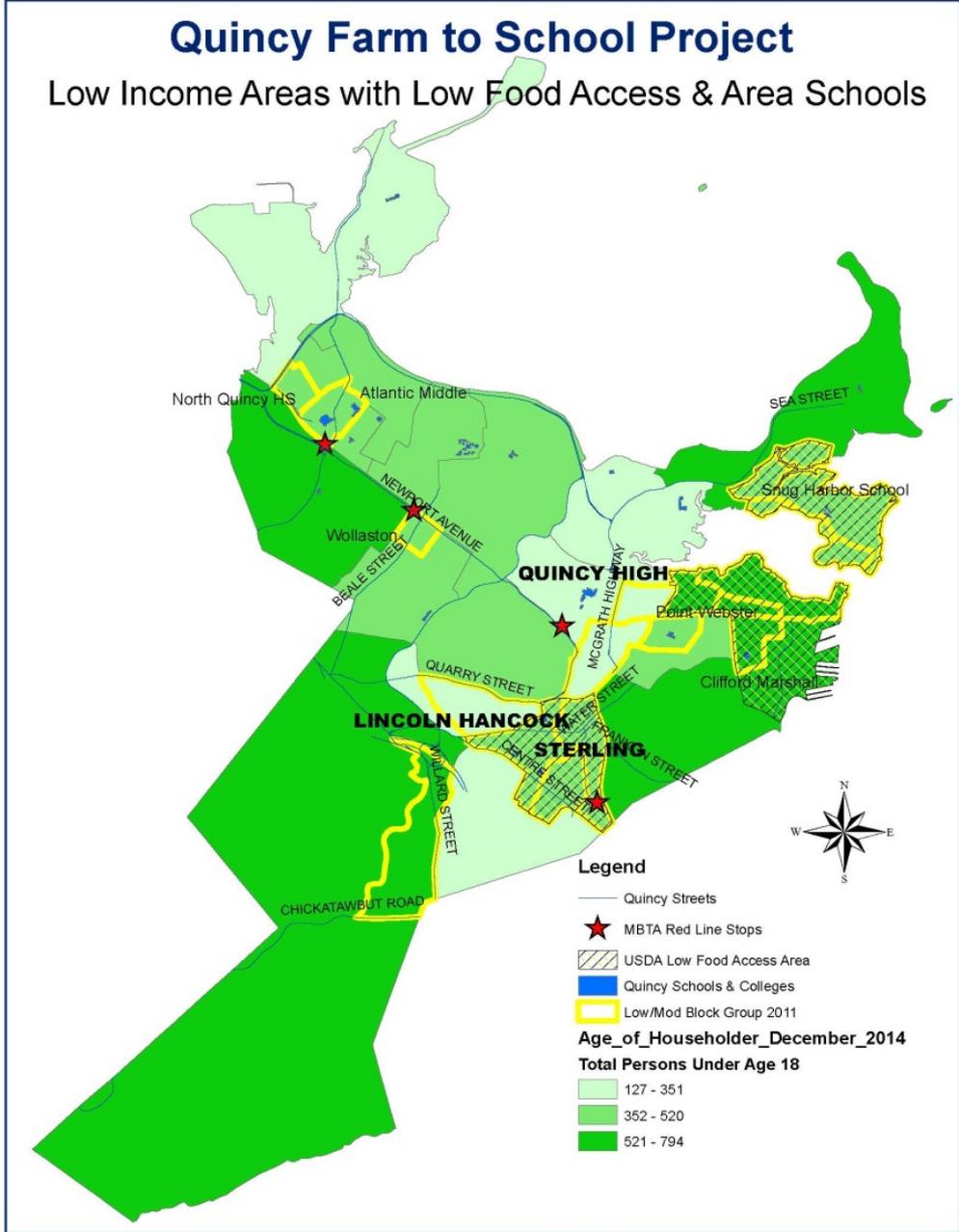
- Enhance wellness policy language around F2S: **In process of being revised to encompass Farm to School.**
- Include F2S on parent survey
- Utilize social media:
 - **Community Notices**
 - **QPS Twitter**
 - **City website: QCGG Sustainable Food: Eat Local & Healthy Kids sections**
- Create tie-ins to local events such as Restaurant Week and City of President's Fun Run

Mayor Koch @ Squantum School Garden Visit



Quincy Farm to School Project

Low Income Areas with Low Food Access & Area Schools



Initial Curriculum Recommendations

1. Establish new "farm garden" for growing on-site at Lincoln Hancock, with manageable, curriculum connected produce -start with a grade level partnership
2. Develop school and site specific "before, during, after" surveys for teachers, students & administrators
3. Conduct field trip for grade level(s) from Lincoln-Hancock
4. Host all-day teacher training at Holly Hill Farm for teacher reps from each school
5. Meet with Principal and study the success/areas of opportunity at the Squantum school
6. Grow at the Sterling with existing STEM garden beds; connect to involved teachers
7. Host a group of Quincy High school students for a community service day at the farm
8. Staff a table at QHS & NQHS community service fairs
9. Explore compost program at QHS with culinary and green committee members
10. Consult with food services director regarding possible crops for site specific schools and city wide
11. Devise ways to source crops and farm products from the school gardens and Holly Hill Farm
12. Organize a district-wide tasting and information sharing with Holly Hill Farm honey
13. Staff an informational table with hands-on activities at 4/29 farm expo
14. Establish school garden model with an eye towards 2020 school garden initiative