



NEWS RELEASE

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Savannah-Chatham County Public School System Honored at State Capitol for Serving More Local Food to Students

School Nutrition Program presented with the Golden Radish Award.

Pictured below from left to right: Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black; SCCPSS Nutrition Director, Lydia Martin; State School Superintendent, Dr. John Barge



The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System was recognized at the state capitol for participation in the 5 Million Meals campaign, a statewide effort that will teach children where their food comes from and why that matters, promote the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, and get more local food in schools.

State School Superintendent Dr. John Barge, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black, and Georgia Organics Board President Rashid Nuri, honored 25 Georgia school districts for taking the “5 Million Meals Challenge.” The school districts were honored with resolutions in the [State Senate](#) and [House of Representatives](#).

“Children learn better when their bodies and minds are fueled by nutritional meals. This program helps create a better school environment so that students can reach new heights academically,” said Dr. Barge. “It also helps us expose children to science through agriculture.”

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System nutrition director, Lydia Martin, pledged to support her local economy and local farmers. “We already use local Georgia Grown products in our school meals,” said Martin. We are committed to doing more and excited about programs such as Feed My School for a Week that will help bridge the gap between schools and local farmers.” In December 2012, West Chatham Elementary was honored as a Feed My School for a Week participant. [Video: December 2012 Feed My School for a Week announcement.](#)

The Centers for Disease Control has identified Farm to School as a key strategy in addressing childhood obesity. Thriving Farm to School programs feature teachers who incorporate growing food into the curriculum, and parents who volunteer an hour or two to help weed that school garden. A successful example of a school garden can be found in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System’s Shuman Elementary, where parents, teachers, and students all benefit from enriching educational activities centered on the school’s garden. Farm to School also involves chefs from the community, farmers, and most importantly, the school nutrition staff who work daily to prepare healthy food that students love to eat.