

## Distribution

**What is Local?** Local food is food that is produced and/or processed in close proximity to where it is consumed. There is no legal definition of local. While some define it in terms of a set number of miles, others look at it in terms of a county, state, region, “foodshed” or other geographical area of production.

Perhaps the most daunting aspect of implementing a Farm to School program is sourcing local foods. There are many ways to find and take delivery of local products. Your geographical location, local agricultural profile, school size, kitchen facilities and equipment, and staff time will all affect your choice of distribution method(s). Whichever method or methods are chosen, they should meet the needs of both your school foodservice and the local farmers involved in order to be sustainable over the long term.

This section describes some of the options for distribution methods to follow. Schools can choose to follow one or a combination of these methods depending on the individual need.

