



August 23, 2023

Kristen McKinnon
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02131

Dear Ms. McKinnon,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework draft. The Campaign for Food Literacy, led by the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative, is pleased to offer the following comments.

The goal of the Campaign for Food Literacy is that students learn about agriculture, nutrition, food justice, and culinary skills in many classes - including health and wellness classes - in K- 12 schools in Massachusetts so we were pleased to see the thoughtful, comprehensive, and up-to-date Nutrition and Balanced Eating sections. Students who understand and appreciate the food system will make better choices regarding their health, and the health of their communities and the environment.

The Campaign for Food Literacy is happy to see that there is a focus on how food is connected to culture. The focus on consuming locally grown foods will also help support healthy eating and local farmers. We are also pleased to see some discussion of food production and food access.

We would like to see school gardens and culinary skills included in this framework as research has shown that experiential education around growing and preparing food can improve nutrition.

We also believe there should be a stronger emphasis on the intersection between the food system and climate change as well as food justice and how students can engage in working toward a more equitable, sustainable local food system.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

Brittany Peats
MA Food System Collaborative
Boston, MA

The members of the Campaign for Food Literacy:

Allston Brighton Health Collaborative, Boston
American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, Danvers
Backyard Growers, Gloucester
Berkshire Grown, Inc., Great Barrington
Brockton Parents Initiative/ Let's Make Friends, Brockton
Change is Simple, Inc., Beverly
Chicopee FRESH, Chicopee
ChopChop Family, Natick
CISA (Community involved in Sustaining Agriculture), South Deerfield
Common Threads, National
CommonWealth Kitchen, Boston
Coonamesett Farm Foundation, Inc. (CFF), East Falmouth
El Buen Samaritano Food Program Inc., Worcester
Everett Community Growers, Everett
Farm Direct Coop, Marblehead
Farm Education, Inc., Sheffield
FoodCorps, Statewide
Friends of Holly Hill Farm, Cohasset
Gardening The Community, Springfield
Greenfield Housing Authority, Greenfield
Groundwork Somerville, Somerville
Grow Food Northampton, Northampton
Growing Healthy Garden Program, North Adams
Growing Places, Leominster
Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass Inc (CHNA9), Westminster
Healthy Chelsea, Chelsea
Healthy Communities Capital Consulting, Cambridge
Hilltown Community Development Corporation, Chesterfield
Island Grown Initiative, Tisbury
Just Roots, Greenfield
Live & Learn Health Coaching and Nutrition Education, Norfolk
Lowell Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services, Lowell
Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND), Needham
Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Marlborough
Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance, Attleboro
Massachusetts Environmental Education Society, Boston
Massachusetts Envirothon, Massachusetts
Massachusetts Farm to School, Boston
Massachusetts Healthy School Lunch Coalition, Malden
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston
Massachusetts PTA, Lexington
Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO), Marlboro
Massachusetts Seafood Collaborative, Boston
Massachusetts State Grange, Rutland

MCSM / CFCE, Turners Falls, Montague
Mill City Grows, Lowell
Moon In The Pond Farm, Sheffield
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, Beverly
Northeast Organic Farming Association/Mass Chapter, Springfield
Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, North Adams
Project Bread, East Boston
Regional Environmental Council, Worcester
Revere CARES Coalition, Revere
Roots Rising, Pittsfield
Route 2 Roots Wellness, Taunton
Salem Food for All, Salem
Seeds of Solidarity, Orange
South Shore Permaculture, Norwell
Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), S. Dartmouth
STEAMandarin, Bedford
Sustainable CAPE, Truro
Sustainable Food & Farming Program, UMass Amherst, Amherst
Sustainable Nantucket, Nantucket
Terra Cura Inc., Plymouth
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield
The Food Project, Lynn and Boston
The Food Voice, Cohasset
The Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston
The Livestock Institute of Southern New England, Westport
The Marion Institute, Marion
The Trustees of Reservations, Boston
Three Sisters Garden Project, Ipswich
We Grow Microgreens, Hyde Park
Worcester County Food Bank, Worcester County
World Farmers, Lancaster
Youth School of Liberation, Brockton