



Press Release  
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### **Greta Shwachman of Greenfield Public Schools Receives Kale Blazer Award**

Greenfield, MA, Nov. 29, 2022 - Senator Jo Comerford joined Greenfield Public School's School Nutrition Director, Greta Shwachman at Greenfield Middle School for a discussion about the importance of farm to school. Senator Comerford presented Ms. Shwachman with the 2022 Kale Blazer Award.

The Massachusetts Farm to School Kale Blazer is an individual who has demonstrated excellence and leadership in farm to school activity in Massachusetts. "With the annual Kale Blazer award, we are excited to recognize leaders in their field who are changing the food system here in Massachusetts. These farm to school innovators are making a positive impact in school cafeterias, in classrooms, and in communities throughout the Commonwealth. The 2022 Farm to School Kale Blazers are an inspiration to us all," said Mass. Farm to School Co-Director, Lisa Damon.

Ms. Shwachman's introduction to farm to school work began while she was a service member with FoodCorps, and continued as she became the farm to school coordinator with Chicopee Public Schools. With her recent transition to Greenfield Public Schools she has strengthened her relationships with local farms with an understanding that, "farm to school can unite diverse stakeholders and create new opportunities for collaboration and engagement," says Ms. Shwachman.

During her visit to Greenfield Middle School, Senator Comerford, along with Greenfield Mayor Roxann Wedegartner, Superintendent Dr. Christine DeBarge, and other school staff, were served delicious croissant breakfast sandwiches with egg, cheese, and VT Salumi Maple Breakfast Sausage from Vermont Salumi, a producer of handmade charcuterie based in Barre, VT. Ms. Shwachman shared her passion for farm to school, which provides fresh, tasty food for school-aged children and, "leverages the power of institutional purchasing to support local farms." Senator Comerford was excited to help present Ms. Shwachman the Kale Blazer award and recognize her important work. "Our kids and our staff and faculty benefit from nutritious produce locally grown. Then of course our farms and our food systems benefit when we invest in them when we buy their produce so it couldn't be better," said Massachusetts State Senator Jo Comerford.

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Founded in 2004, Massachusetts Farm to School has been at the forefront of the nationwide farm to school movement. Over 1/3 of the state's school districts provide access to healthy, local foods and spend an estimated \$11.4 million annually on Massachusetts produced food.

Farm to School programs have exploded across the country in recent years, with a wide range of impacts on local economies, student health, and learning. Massachusetts has been at the forefront of this movement, with a strong statewide program since 2004. The U.S.D.A's Farm to School Census finds that Massachusetts school districts are helping 595,000 students gain access to healthy, local foods and helping school cafeterias spend an estimated \$11.4 million on Massachusetts produced food.

For more information about Massachusetts Farm to School visit, [www.massfarmtoschool.org](http://www.massfarmtoschool.org).