



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DOE salutes nutrition professionals for innovative program**

A partnership between **Gwinnett County Public Schools'** (GCPS) School Nutrition Program (SNP) and Georgia farmers that provides healthy and nutritious meals to Gwinnett children has caught the attention of the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Both agencies presented Gwinnett's School Nutrition Program professionals with a "USDA Best Practice Award" for its Farm-to-School initiative, which was launched at the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

As part of Gwinnett's ongoing efforts to equip students with healthy habits that will last a lifetime, the Farm-to-School program features a different locally grown fruit or vegetable on the menu every month. The program is a partnership between Gwinnett County Public Schools and local Georgia farmers.

During the 2010-2011 school year, Gwinnett provided more than 800,000 servings of a fruit or vegetable native to Georgia. During the month of October alone, students selected 261,000 apples, while the school year began in August with close to 225,000 servings of watermelon, and it ended in May with more than 8,000 servings of strawberries.

This program is the latest in the district's ongoing efforts to educate students about making healthy meal choices. Other initiatives include the school system's vegetarian line, and the offering of all-natural products.

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