

# FOODPRINTS SUPPORTS SCHOOL GOALS



DC Public Schools educators and staff share that FoodPrints supports classroom and school-wide educational goals. In focus groups and surveys, they say that FoodPrints:

**Provides important opportunities for students to develop social and emotional skills** – including teamwork, cooperation, confidence, ownership, and connection – especially when schools are focused helping students catch up academically after so much disruption from COVID.

“Coming back from the pandemic, our struggle has been having students learn how to communicate with each other again. And with this push for academics, ... we’re so ingrained in getting them caught up, but we’re not looking at social emotional. And what I found with FoodPrints is it gives them that extra time to do that and it’s in a safe, controlled environment...it has been great to see them working towards a goal, learning how to have respectful conversations and being excited about learning with their peers. — Christina Greta Schorn, Art Teacher, Amidon-Bowen ES

“Our SEL model is “come with curiosity, leave with confidence.” In FoodPrints ... they’re trying new things, they’re learning, they’re not afraid to learn things, so it literally ties right into our mission. — Tarsha Warren, Assistant Principal, Burroughs ES

**Builds a positive food culture** by providing opportunities for students to experience the process of growing and preparing nutritious food and **is highly sought-after.**

“It builds a positive food culture at our school in that the students are able to learn how food is grown or produced ... and make better food choices. And they even make connections to home saying, “Oh, when I go home, I think I’m going to try this... let me get that recipe.” — Ms. Siriwan Mobley, Librarian and Reading Specialist, C.W. Harris ES

“Our students can’t wait for the next positive experience whether in the garden or in the kitchen classroom. — Inetta Emery, Beers Elementary

“FoodPrints builds better eating habits and food awareness, and encourages deep cooperation. — Brittany Bielasiak, Marie Reed

“DCPS educators are eager to see FoodPrints implemented more frequently at their schools and to see more of their favorite parts of FoodPrints, including cooking, gardening, and cafeteria partnerships. — Jennifer Myers, School Without Walls at Francis Stevens

*This summary is based on a focus group and survey with more than 20 DCPS school staff (classroom teachers, specials teachers, and support staff) at 11 FoodPrints partner schools, as conducted and analyzed by Dr. Katie Kerstetter and her team in spring 2022.*