



# Learnings from the Field



## Greenville County School District

Greenville, SC

**District Enrollment:**

76450

**Production Model:** Self-

Operated

**District F/R:** 50.7%

**School Year Implemented:**

2018-2019

**District ADP:** 51.4%

**No. of Grants Awarded:** 3

# East North Street Academy

**Age Group:** K-5

**School Size:** Medium (301-900)

**School Environment:** Urban

**School F/R:** 100%

**School ADP:** 76.5%

# Sterling School

**Age Group:** 6-8

**School Size:** Medium (301-900)

**School Environment:** Urban

**School F/R:** 65%

**School ADP:** 79%

# Berea Elementary

**Age Group:** K-5

**School Size:** Medium (301-900)

**School Environment:** Urban

**School F/R:** 100%

**School ADP:** 89.5%

# Project Description

At Greenville County Schools, the Project Produce grant provided an opportunity to expose students to a variety of produce. Culinary Specialist at Greenville, Paula Wambeke, says they used the funds to procure locally grown Asian Pears, muscadines, gooseberries, Brussel Sprouts, Scratch-made hummus with red peppers, sweet potatoes, starfruit, pomegranates and spaghetti squash. A display of the items were located in the cafeteria where it could be seen as students walked in to the serving area. Samples were offered from the serving line and by staff who circulated through the cafeteria and sat down with classes during their lunch period. According to Wambeke, the staff explained how to eat the produce, its origins, and how to use it in recipes. They did so by taking the time to sit and have conversations with students and as a result, building relationships with them.

Culinary Specialist Paula Wambeke explains that “By having the culinary specialist and district chef sit and converse with students, we were able to explain the nutritional benefits of the specific fruits and vegetables and why it is so important to incorporate produce into our diets. The students seemed to really respond to us making the effort to engage them.”

## Successes

- Gaining student trust with taste tests
- Seeing children discover new things

- New interaction with students while introducing them to the world of fresh produce

## Challenges

- Time commitment
- Lack of availability of certain produce

For resources related to Project Produce, visit [www.thelunchbox.org](http://www.thelunchbox.org).

