



**Memorandum of Understanding between
Franklin Pierce School District (FPSD) and Pierce Conservation District (PCD)
2025-26**

The purpose of the Farm at FP Schools is to support students and community members to grow culturally nourishing relationships with food, farming and the natural world, while recognizing the impact of past and present theft of land and labor. We do this by providing rigorous education centered around the living farm space and food justice issues in our community. We strive to uplift the land as a primary source for learning and share its bounty to nourish our community. This Memorandum of Understanding is to provide clarity about the joint effort between FPSD and PCD to support the programming at the Farm for the benefit of the community.

The partnering agencies have agreed to work towards the following outcomes:

- 1) Steward the land as a teacher/primary source for both students and community.
- 2) Design an education space where students can experience and learn from the ecosystem of staff/faculty/parents/partners/community working together.
- 3) Develop opportunities to engage community members in food system work, and especially to support the ongoing food sovereignty work of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.
- 4) Create and maintain a source of healthy, culturally nourishing food for school cafeterias.
- 5) Create and maintain a source of healthy, culturally nourishing food for community members.
- 6) Develop intentional intersections between classroom instruction, work-based learning and community programs to grow a youth development pathway for college, career and community agency through healthy and sustainable systems.

To achieve these outcomes, PCD and FPSD agree to partner to execute programming that meets a range of needs and serves a diversity of community members and students:

- 1) Farm Foundations Training - Training will combine classroom learning with hands-on skill building. Participants will learn what it takes to run a small-scale vegetable farm while growing produce for FPSD. The program will give students an introduction to ecosystem and agroecological theory, soil science, plant science, and farm planning and management - by applying knowledge through physical farm work and observation on a weekly basis. A share of the harvest will be provided to participants weekly throughout the course of the season.
- 2) Positions - Partnering around various seasonal positions hired through Personal Services Contracts under PCD. See descriptions and details below.
- 3) Community Garden Partnership - PCD provides support for the community gardeners as part of the HPC Community Gardeners Program, which includes scheduling, assigning beds and functioning of the space. The Farm provides support around infrastructure and basic maintenance of the space.
- 4) Seed Library - PCD provides organizational support, which includes outreach, promotion, and systems management. The Farm provides the physical space.

FPSD and PCD will collaborate when making decisions that impact the future of the Farm or farm programming keeping the students at the center of those considerations.

Franklin Pierce School District will provide:

- Planning and maintenance of farm, including seasonal crop plan, weekly work plans, tools and materials, and informational aids for 2 acres of vegetable production
- Access and training for compact tractor, walk behind tractor and appropriate implements, tools and supplies for pre-approved PCD staff
- Use of a lockable storage space for community garden hand-tool storage
- Shed for housing Seed Library
- Regular maintenance of facilities and equipment
- The Franklin Pierce School District will establish policies related to health and safety work procedures to minimize exposure to workers and the public.

Pierce Conservation will provide:

- Certificate of insurance liability and/or accident coverage for PCD events on FPSD premises. The certificate is to show a minimum liability limit of \$1,000,000.
 - This applies to PCD managed programs: Farm Foundations, Community Garden, Seed Library and PCD events.
- Staff support
 - Communications help with volunteer recruitment and program outreach
 - Farm Foundations education and materials
- Support for the Community Garden located at the Farm
- Seasonal positions hired through Personal Services Agreements by PCD. Managed and supervised by Farm staff
 - Health Department SnapEd grant funded under contract with PCD when funds available:
 - Farm Assistant: \$20,000

Each party to this MOU will be responsible for the negligent acts or omissions of its own employees, officers, or agents in performance of this agreement. Neither party will be considered the agent of the other nor neither party assumes any responsibility to the other party for the consequences of any act or omission of any person, firm, or corporation not a party to this agreement. This agreement becomes effective upon signing by both parties. The term of this agreement will expire September 30, 2026, at which time both parties will review any necessary changes.

Acknowledged:

PCD Representative: _____ Date: _____

FPSD Representative: _____ Date: _____