USD 497

- 14 Elementary Schools
- 4 Middle Schools
- 2 High Schools
- 1 College and Career Center
- 11,400 students
History

2010 grant- LiveWell Lawrence
   - Elementary kitchen manager
   - Built relationships with farmers
   - Served local produce at school
   - Worked on food safety protocol

2012-present
   - Farm to School Meal- features day of local food items during Farm to School Month

2013- Hired Curriculum Coordinator
   - Enhance student wellness by integrating supports and service across the district

2014
   - Grant- Kansas Health Foundation (two year position)
     - Farm to School Coordinator
     - Farm to School Committee organized
       - Maintenance, grounds, food service, teaching and learning

2015
   - Request for information (RFI) created for local produce
   - Forward contracting with 3 farms

2016
   - Hired Outdoor Education Educator
   - 6 farms providing produce
How a farmer supplies USD 497

- Annual Farmer meeting in December
- Farmers Complete RFI by early January
- Forward Contract for Next School Year Completed in Early Spring
- Visit Farms and Complete a Food Safety Checklist
- Receive Weekly Emails about Availability
- Order via Email
- District Sets Pricing for the School Year
Challenges

- Communication
- Supply vs Demand
- Juggling Multiple Farms Supplying Produce
- Brokering is Second Tier
- Delivery
Success

- Purchasing from Six Farms this Year
- Creating Par Values
- Have received:
  - cantaloupe, watermelon, pears, tomatoes (grape/cherry/slicing), jalapenos, green beans, orange snacking peppers, green/red bell peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes
- Purchased 28,000 pounds
Outdoor Learning Environments/Nutrition Education

- Elementary
  - Raised beds
- Middle School
  - Production gardens
- High Schools
  - Green house
- Taking the classroom to where the food is...
How to get involved?

- Work with farms/schools to see what their interest is
- Talk to multiple people in the district
- Ask questions
- Create excitement
- Volunteer
- Start small
Contact

- Lindsey Morgan, RD/Food Service Supervisor
- Email: lmorgan@usd497.org
- Phone: (785) 832-5000 ext. 2663
- www.usd497.org