

Coordinator, Farm to School Initiative Tompkins County

Department: Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES
Classification: Competitive
Approved: 6/2022 by RP
By: RP, Commissioner of Human Resources

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four year college with a Bachelors Degree **AND** one year full-time paid experience specifically working in an education setting and/or food service setting **OR** two years full time experience as a volunteer (with youth and/or with food). **OR**
2. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two year college with an Associates Degree **AND** one year full-time paid experience specifically working in an education setting and/or food service setting **OR** four years full time paid experience as a volunteer or staff coordinator; **OR**
3. High School Diploma/GED **AND** one year full-time paid experience specifically working in an education setting and/or food service setting **OR** six years full time paid experience as a volunteer or staff coordinator; **OR**
4. Any equivalent combination in training or experience equal to, or greater than that described in (a), (b) and (c) above, as determined by the Commissioner of Personnel.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

The Farm to School Coordinator would work with a variety of community partners to increase connection to and involvement with student-centered programs such as school gardening programs, local and school food pantries, wellness committees and family and consumer science programs all while rooting the experiences in the school districts' school food and cafeteria programs. The Coordinator will also investigate and initiate vocational opportunities and field trips with the farming and culinary community at large. The ultimate goal is to increase accessibility to high quality food for everyone in the learning community and connect students, school personnel, and the school cafeteria to resources, while focusing on embedded nutritional education. This position is grant-based and does not have direct supervisory duties. Incumbent will report directly to the building principal.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: The Farm to School Coordinator will:

- Understand and leverage the connection between nutritious food and learning
- Co-create experiences for our students to investigate the intersections between food justice and social justice through the creation of a unit(s) of study focused on food in their community (who has it, who doesn't, and why).
- Work with teachers to develop and support food-based curriculum;
- Coordinate activities between school food based entities, i.e. homestead garden, wellness committee, and community based food entities including our local farmers market, the harvest project, local farmers, etc.
- Launch tasting, cooking, and food exploration opportunities as well as menu development based on the feedback and experiences of students in those activities for use in the school cafeteria in coordination with the school cafeteria personnel.
- Work with cafeteria staff to build capacity and increase participation in the school nutrition program.
- Work with faculty and students to improve & maintain on-campus gardens, including possible overseeing of youth employees & community volunteers.
- Establish and/or support a larger farm-to-school committee;
- Develop activities & programming to support farm-to-school;
- Pursue grant opportunities to assist in continued funding for the program.
- Other duties as assigned

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
- Excellent Organizations skills
- Able to exhibit sound judgement and exceptional interpersonal skills
- Proactive in problem solving
- Ability to collaborate well within a diverse team
- Working knowledge of gardening and growing
- Knowledge of basic nutrition and wellness
- Ability to relate well with employees, students and the community
- The employee's physical condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position

Originally Created 6/2022

C145