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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEORGIA ORGANICS & BIG GREEN INVEST \$120,000 IN 24 GEORGIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR FARM-TO-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMS

(ATLANTA) – [DATE] – [Georgia Organics](#) and [Big Green](#) proudly announce their joint investment of \$120,000 in 24 Georgia school districts to boost farm-to-school and school garden initiatives for the 2023-24 school year. This collaboration aims to expand grant opportunities and support local food and school garden projects statewide.

Sam Koentopp, Director of Programs at Big Green, highlights the impact of these grants, stating, "These funds enable schools to realize their farm-to-school vision." Under Big Green's [Jumpstart program](#), 30 Georgia schools will receive \$2,000 each to kickstart or revitalize their garden programs. Additionally, 13 Georgia school districts will receive grants ranging from \$600 to \$10,000 through Georgia Organics' 2024 [Farm to School Innovation Mini-Grant](#), aiming to integrate local farm products into cafeterias and educate students about local agricultural benefits.

Kimberly Della Donna, Community Collaborations Director at Georgia Organics, expresses excitement about partnering with Big Green and mini-grant recipients to foster farm-to-school innovation projects, stating, "We anticipate sharing their progress widely as models for farm-to-school programs nationally."

Both grant programs, established in 2021 to aid schools impacted by COVID-19, reinforce resources for farm-to-school activities, school gardens, and outdoor learning. They prioritize funding for Title 1 or Community Eligibility Provision schools and provide continued support through networking, professional development, scholarship opportunities, and Big Green's [online school garden resources](#).

In addition to statewide grants, Big Green, collaborating with [Loop It Up Savannah](#), is currently working to establish 30 raised-bed school gardens in the Savannah Public School District. Looking ahead, Big Green aspires to deepen partnerships in Georgia and bring more school garden opportunities and investment to Georgia. Koentopp notes, "Our collaboration with Georgia Organics forms a solid base for future school garden resources and infrastructure investments."

These grants were made possible by generous donations from [The Zeist Foundation](#), [Newman's Own Foundation](#), and [The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation](#). Mini-Grant projects are slated for implementation in the spring of 2024. To see the full list of grantees and get project updates, visit [The Dirt](#) and [biggreen.org/georgia](#). To support this work further in Georgia, visit [georgiaorganics.org/donate](#) and [biggreen.org/donate](#). Let's grow together!

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About Georgia Organics



Georgia Organics is a dynamic statewide nonprofit investing in organic farmers and community allies to cultivate a strong local food movement. While Georgia Organics was officially founded in 1997, its roots go back to the 1970s as an association of growers that recognized the power of collective action. Today, Georgia Organics continues to champion this ethos in support of their mission *to invest in farmers for the health of our communities and the land*. This effort is achieved through a host of Farmer Services, conferences, and convenings; Community Collaborations, including Farm to School and Early Care, Family Farm Share, and Farmer Champion (Farm to Restaurant) programs; and Advocacy. These programs are driven by a strategic plan for a lasting and systemic impact on farmer prosperity, equity, and healthy land and communities.

Learn More: georgiaorganics.org

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About Big Green

Big Green is a 501c3 nonprofit on a mission to get everyone in America growing food. Big Green believes that growing food changes lives. It improves nutrition security and mental health, gets us into nature, and opens our eyes to the weather volatility created by climate change. For twelve years, Big Green has helped people grow their own food with school and home-based programs and awareness campaigns. The organization deploys its unique, modular, raised bed gardens to expand gardening access at home, school and community sites. It also provides grants and other capacity-building investments in gardening and urban farming projects and organizations and facilitates events and convenings to help people grow more food together.

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