

# GREAT APPLE CRUNCH

ILLINOIS  
FARM TO SCHOOL  
NETWORK



Seven  
Generations  
Ahead

## 2017 Illinois Great Apple Crunch Report

### Illinois Farm to School Network

On Thursday, October 12th, thousands of children around the state participated by crunching into apples sourced from local orchards. 2017 was the third year that Illinois schools participated in the Great Apple Crunch. In celebration of National Farm to School Month, the Crunch is designed to raise awareness about eating healthier and buying locally grown foods by serving school children apples from local growers.

The Illinois Great Apple Crunch is a project of the Illinois Farm to School Network and Seven Generations Ahead, in collaboration with the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch, the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.

## Overview

The Great Apple Crunch began in 2013 in the Great Lakes Farm to School region, and over the years the program has grown with increased participation in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. The Farm to School Networks of each state have taken the lead on organizing the Crunches in their states. The Illinois Farm to School Network (IFSN) facilitated the first Illinois Great Apple Crunch in 2015 and has continued to do so in 2016 and 2017.

In our inaugural year, 35,000 Illinois students crunched into apples on Crunch Day, and over \$40,000 of local apples were purchased, which brought more money into our local food and farm economy. In 2016, we saw a participation increase of 869% with a total of 339,103 Illinois students participating in the Crunch.

The Great Apple Crunch was designed to make it easy for schools to buy local food. By working with distribution companies and targeting demand for a specific local product on a single day, Illinois grown apples are put into the institutional buying market in a way that could not have happened without the Crunch. Exposing food service directors and other school staff to the process of sourcing local foods for the Crunch helped jumpstart process of local procurement, with the goal that schools will continue to source locally grown foods for their cafeterias long after the apple crunch finished.

Even more so, the goal of the Apple Crunch was to create excitement in schools about local agriculture and nutrition. Instead of simply putting local apples on student's trays, the Apple Crunch encourages a fun promotion that is simple and easy. The main activity of the Great Apple Crunch is adding local apples to lunch trays in the cafeteria, and counting down to the Crunch so students can bite into them at the same time. Participation beyond this is up to individual schools, but IFSN encourages more. IFSN's partnership with Agriculture in the Classroom gave schools the opportunity to receive an Apple Crunch poster and the Apple Ag Mag free of charge. Additionally, a Crunch Guide with fun crunch-related activities is available with ideas on how to make the event interactive for the students. Suggestions include making a Crunch-o-Meter to compare different apples, have a taste test of different varieties, or writing an apple related song. Accompanying the activities were some quick apple nutrition facts for schools to share with their students.



Schools and participants can engage with the project via social media on the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch Facebook and Twitter and by using the hashtag #GreatAppleCrunch.

THANK YOU to our partners the Illinois Farm Bureau and Agriculture in the Classroom.



# The 2017 Great Apple Crunch

The 2017 Great Apple Crunch was held on Thursday, October 12th and Crunches across the Great Lakes Region totalled 1,542,900. The Illinois Great Apple Crunch had a total of 463,981 students and 2,555 adults crunching at 919 sites. This represents a 37% increase from the previous year and 1,226% increase in Illinois student participation from 2015 to 2017.

<b>School District Participation</b>	<b>No. of Students</b>
Harlem SD #122	6600
Oak Park and River Forest High School (SD #200)	2000
Benton CCSD #47	1100
Rockford Public Schools (SD #205)	19,500
Wheeling CCSD #21	7000
Bent School (SD #87)	350
Irving Elementary School (SD #87)	375
Bloomington High School (SD #87)	1200
Frohardt Elementary School (Granite City CUSD #9)	450
Namaste Charter School (Chicago)	480
Chicago Public Schools (SD #299)	380,000
Hermes Elementary School (SD #131)	720
Crestwood Jr. High School (Paris CUSD #4)	475
Holy Cross Elementary (Champaign)	250
The HUB Project (SD #231)	250
Rochelle Elementary HUB Program (SD #231)	15
St Ann School (Lansing)	175
Washington Elementary School (SD #87)	400
Kreitner Elementary School (Collinsville CUSD #10)	386
Oakbrook & Westview Elementary School (SD #7)	700
Eswood Grade School (SD #269)	80
Bement CUSD #5	330
Webster Cantrell Hall (non-profit, Decatur)	40
Archdiocese of Chicago Schools	20,000
Lincolnwood SD #74	700
Tri-City CUSD #1	500
Fairview SD #72	725

Peotone SD #207U	1500
Unity Point Elementary School (SD #140)	700
North Elementary School (SD #427)	250
Graymont Grade School (SD #425)	50
Richland County CUSD #1	2254
St. Giles School (Oak Park)	450
Massac County Unit SD #1	80
Germantown Hills SD #69	300
Lewistown SD #97	325
St Charles Borromeo (parish, Hampshire)	150
Healthy Lombard (foundation)	2400
Evergreen Park SD #124	600
Geneseo CUSD #228	1600
River Trails Middle School (SD #26)	475
Kings SD #144	80
Edwards County Farm Bureau AITC	50
Sherman Elementary School (Williamsville CUSD #15)	100
West Carroll CUSD #314	1000
Allendale School CHSD #117	125
North Grove, South Prairie, South East, West Elementary (SCUSD #427)	1400
Beaupre Elementary School (SD #131)	300
Mount Vernon SD #80	2000
After School Matters (program, Chicago)	
60	
Under the Ginkgo Tree Nature School (Rock Island)	6
Benton CCSD #47	1100
Wethersfield CUSD #230	335
Johnston City CUSD #1	400
Jonesboro SD #43	430
Lebanon Elementary School (MSAD #60)	100
Harnew Elementary School (RSD #122)	560

**Total number of students = 463,981**

**Total number of students not including CPS = 83,981**