



**KIDS FIRST, Inc.**  
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**Kids First provides:**

- **Educational Programs:** Kids First delivers hands-on, behavior-focused education, training and professional development programs on *Nutrition & Food, Physical Activity, Gardening* and *Food Safety*. Kids First Staff members have delivered over 3,000 educational programs for students, parents, teachers, administrators and food service staff in schools and childcare centers in Rhode Island. The Kids First team of chefs, nutritionists, food safety inspectors, gardeners and physical activity professionals customize each workshop to best address participant needs.
- **Technical Assistance:** Kids First follows up educational programs with tools and customized assistance to help school community members make policy and environmental changes that support healthier eating and increased physical activity. Kids First developed the *RI Nutrition Guidelines for School Vending and a la Carte Foods* and maintains the *RI Approved Product List for Snacks and Beverages*. Kids First facilitates the *RI Farm to School Project*, expanding and encouraging the use of RI grown foods in all school cafeterias. Kids First pioneered and produces the annual *Healthy School Foods Marketplace*, a regional event that connects food service buyers with vendors who distribute healthier and more locally sourced foods. Kids First provides Chef/Nutritionist support for food systems change including food service staff training and supply chain investigation to aid in the procurement of more local and fresh foods.
- **Community Support:** Kids First continuously rallies community support by facilitating communications at the state and local level and by building coalitions that support change through advocacy. Kids First representatives are active members in every Rhode Island school district *Wellness Committee* and can offer resources and contacts to school communities in order to help keep momentum and inspiration for healthy changes alive. Kids First founded the *RI Healthy Schools Coalition*, consisting of 156 members from over 100 organizations involved in improving nutrition and physical activity for RI children. The Healthy Schools Coalition hosts an annual *Breakfast for School Leaders* every Fall at which over 300 school and community leaders come together to share best practices as well as learn about new policy, initiatives and resources available to schools in RI.