

Consider the following in preparing to initiate a local agricultural education program

1. Why do you desire to create an agricultural education program in your school district? (The reasons need to include concrete, educational objectives. It will be a good idea to address learning outcomes, graduation rates, and potential for employment during high school and after.)
2. Is there a significant number of potential employers for graduates of the agricultural education program, within the school district or in nearby areas? (Consider production agriculture, the green industry, agricultural businesses, agricultural services, environmental, natural resources, and land-use based tourism businesses.)
3. Is there an identifiable base of agriculture industry and production supporters you can call upon as a foundation of support for the program?
4. Are there identifiable sources of financial support (in addition to the school district) to assist in establishment and maintenance of the program?
5. Can you obtain information addressing the educational needs of the community, including current shortcomings of the existing educational system, which the agricultural education program will be able to address?
6. Could the program enhance an existing program which has identified shortcomings or challenges?
7. What is the current policy for consideration of additional educational programs within the district? (Know and follow processes and procedures that are in place and work within this system and with those responsible for system monitoring and decision-making.)
8. Can I develop a communication system to keep all parties aware of progress and needs?