

## SUGGESTED LANGUAGE

VAAFM will lead a working group that will include representatives from AOE, VT FEED, NOFA VT, School Nutrition Association and school nutrition directors, (also legislators?). This group will also invite other stakeholders, such as farmers, food distributors, school administrators, or others they identify to provide input and feedback as they develop a plan, to be delivered to the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committee by January 15, 2020. The plan shall include:

1. A proposal for a definition of “local food” for the purposes of this effort.
2. A proposal for a “per plate” incentive for local food purchasing for Vermont k12 school meals and a timeline for implementation
  - a. This proposal will include the amount per plate and an analysis of why this amount will be effective for schools to increase school purchasing of local food, as well as an estimate of what % increase in local food purchasing might be expected.
  - b. In order to develop this proposal, the working group will “field test” a per plate incentive with several school districts or supervisory unions during the 2019-2020 school year. Data will be collected to contribute to the plan due January 15, 2020.

A plan for how to support and assist schools to increase local food purchasing, which may include:

- a. Additional procurement training for school personnel to purchase local foods Work with AOE CNP to determine how to collect and manage the data needed to track local food purchasing in schools
- b. Research and develop a tracking system or modification of current data collection systems
- c. A methodology for helping schools to know what is available and how to purchase and track it

In order to create this plan and accomplish the “field testing” with schools noted in section 2(b) above, \$100,000 will be appropriated to VAAFM’s Farm to School Grant Program, specifically for this work.