

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.106 An act relating to equitable access to a high-quality education through community schools – As recommended by Senate Education Committee

Bill Summary:

This bill proposes a demonstration grant program to implement a community school program. This program shall be facilitated by community school coordinators that will be responsible for the identification, implementation, and coordination of community school programs. This bill also allows any school district or school to operate as a community school, regardless of whether it receives funds under this act.

This bill also proposes to establish a locally produced foods grant program with the goal of at least 20% of all foods purchased by supervisory unions to be locally produced foods. The Agency of Education shall administer this program and create a full-time, classified position specializing in the administration of school food programs. This bill creates the Task Force on Universal School Lunch, which shall recommend how to provide universal school lunch for all public school students at no cost to the students or their families by the 2026-2027 school year.

Fiscal Impact:

The Agency of Education shall administer the demonstration grant program for the community school program and provide funding on September 1 of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Each demonstration grant shall be up to \$110,000 per year for those three years for eligible recipients. This funding will cover about 10 school districts. This funding shall be used to hire or designate existing personnel to be a community school coordinator to develop and implement a community school program. The Agency of Education may set aside not more than 1% of funds for informational and technical assistance, and not more than 2% of funds for evaluations required under Sec. 3 of this act.

- **Appropriation for community school program: \$3,399,000.00 from ESSER 3 to be used over FY22, 23, 24**
 - The Agency of Education set aside for all three years is about \$34,000 for informational and technical assistance and \$68,000 for the evaluation requirements.

The locally produced food grant program shall be administered by the Agency of Education and create a full-time, classified position specializing in the administration of school food programs.

- **Appropriation for AOE position: \$100,000 from General Fund for FY22**

The grants shall be distributed to eligible supervisory unions based on the percent of locally produced foods. Eligible supervisory unions shall receive funding per reimbursable school lunch.

Locally produced food	Price per lunch reimbursement
15%	\$0.15
20%	\$0.20
25%	\$.25

There is not an appropriation in this bill for the locally produced food program, because there is \$500,000 to the Agency of Education for this purpose in the Senate proposal of amendment for H. 439 “An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government”.

There are not any members of the Task Force on Universal School Lunch eligible for per diem compensation and reimbursement.