

Farm Fresh School Meals for All

The Farm Fresh School Meals for All package [is included in S.100, H.106, and H.439](#). Together, the full package would bring universal school breakfast to all public school students in the 2022-23 school year, explore a pathway to universal school lunch by 2026, and help get more local food into school meals by launching a local purchasing incentive program to help schools increase purchases from Vermont farmers and producers.

S.100 - As Passed by the Senate:

Universal School Breakfast and Creation of the Task Force on Universal School Lunch Act

- Would require all public schools to provide Universal School Breakfast to all students at no charge to the individual student or family beginning in the 2022-2023 school year
 - This timeline allows for no interruption of Universal School Breakfast after USDA waivers that allow schools to provide both universal breakfast and lunch expire at the end of the 2021-22 school year
 - Increase federal dollars supporting the school meals programs by requiring schools to maximize reimbursement for meals at all schools by participating in one of the federal options for providing universal school meals and by incorporating best practices in serving meals
 - Provides funding for the cost of Universal School Breakfast through the Education Fund to individual school districts. \$8 million is appropriated from the Education Fund for this purpose in FY22

- Would establish a task force to bring a recommendation to the legislature in January of 2022, detailing a path to Universal School Lunch by the 2026-2027 school year
 - First meeting on or before 10/10/21; report due by 1/15/22 to the Senate Committees on Education, Agriculture, Appropriations, and House Committees on Agriculture and Forestry, Education, and Appropriations
 - The task force will consist of one member each from the Agency of Education (AOE), Agency of Human Services, and Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets
 - The report would include:
 - Recommendation for funding of Universal School Lunch
 - Recommendation on how student household income data should be collected
 - Information about how other states offer and fund universal school meals
 - Information from VT's federal delegation about opportunities at the federal level to support universal school meals
 - The bill states that the task force shall collaborate with:
 - Hunger Free Vermont, Vermont School Boards Association, School Nutrition Association. of Vermont, Vermont Superintendents Association, VT-NEA, Vermont Principals Association, and the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators
 - This task force would NOT require any additional funding
 - *****This task force is also included in [H.106, as passed by the Senate Education Committee on May 7th**](#)***

- Ensures that AOE Child Nutrition Programs has the capacity needed to establish the local purchasing incentive program (currently in H.106) and to support schools transitioning to provide universal school breakfast by creating one full-time, classified position specializing in the administration of school food programs. \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY22 for this position. This position is currently in both S.100 as passed by the Senate and H.106 as passed by the Senate Education Committee on May 7th.

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Last updated: May 10, 2021

- States that a goal of the state, by 2023, is to have school districts purchase 20% of their breakfast, lunch, or summer meals locally
 - Requires school districts to submit an annual report detailing local purchasing
- Requires a report on the status of implementation of S.100 from AOE, in consultation with Hunger Free Vermont, Vermont Association of School Business Officials, Vermont School Boards Association, Vermont Principals Association, and the School Nutrition Association of Vermont, due 12/15/21 to relevant legislative committees

[H.106 - Community Schools Act](#)

- ***This bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee on May 7th. The bill is expected to go to the Appropriations Committee next.** The following is included in H.106 as passed by the Senate Education Committee:*
- Includes the Universal School Lunch task force, with the same language as appears in S.100 (above)
- Would create an incentive program for Vermont schools to purchase locally produced foods for their school meal programs, based on the percentage of local food purchased
 - In order to qualify for the incentive, the supervisory union would have to:
 - Develop a locally produced foods purchasing plan
 - Designate a person to be the food coordinator for locally produced foods
 - Develop a process for tracking the purchase of locally produced food
 - Comply with the annual reporting requirement (below)
 - Would require an annual report from each school board estimating the percentage of locally produced food purchased for its school meal program
 - Details of incentive:
 - 15¢ per reimbursable school lunch if the supervisory union purchases at least 15% locally produced food through the school meal program
 - 20¢ per reimbursable school lunch if the supervisory union purchases at least 20% locally produced food
 - 25¢ per reimbursable school lunch if the supervisory union purchases at least 25% locally produced food
 - If a supervisory union grows, raises, or produces food, it shall assign a fair market value to that food for the purpose of reporting its cost
 - “Locally produced foods” is defined by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (VAAF) in [Act 129](#), excepting fluid milk. Milk already comprises over 15% of school food costs on average, so to incentivize new purchasing of Vermont products fluid milk has been excluded
 - ***FY22 funding for this program is included in H.439 as passed by the Senate*

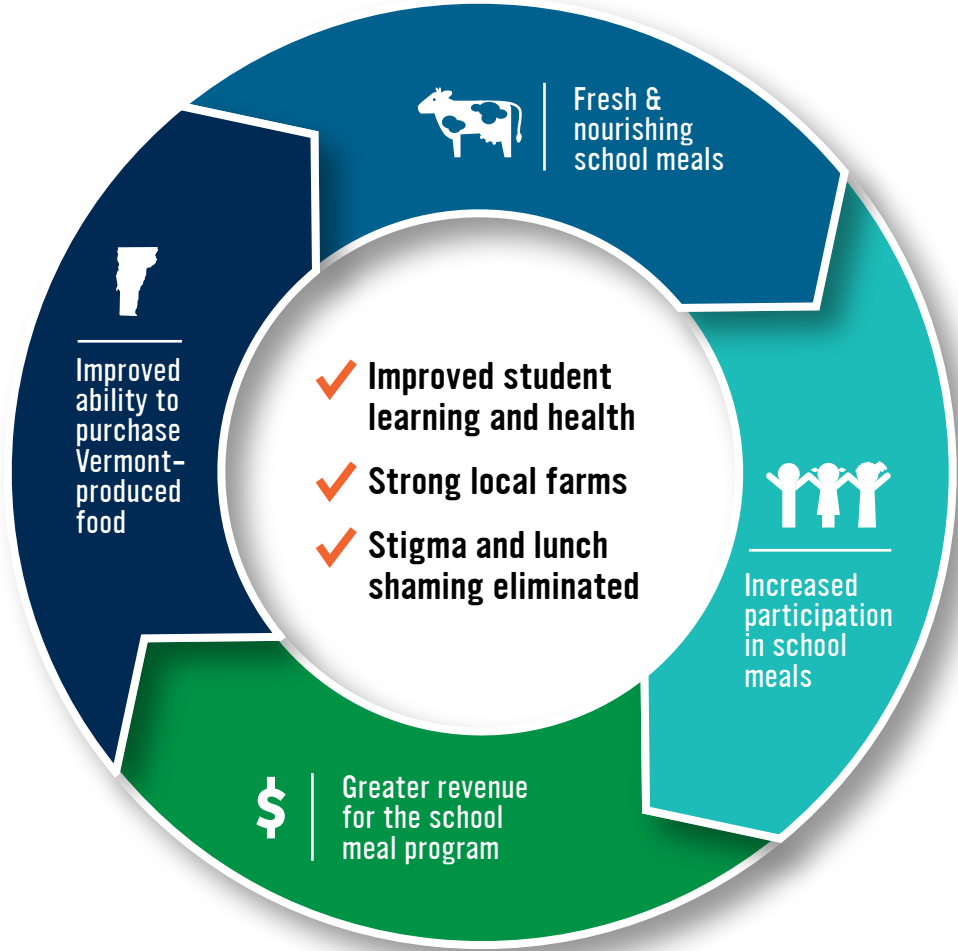
H.439 - As Passed by the Senate, Budget Bill for FY22

- Funding is included to launch a local purchasing incentive program to support school meal programs buying more locally produced food. \$500,000 from the ARPA Coronavirus State Fiscal Relief Funds has been appropriated to the Agency of Education to administer grants to school districts
- Level funds the Vermont Farm to School and Early Childhood Grant Program at \$171,000



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THE COMPONENT OF FARM FRESH SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL	WHERE IS IT NOW?
<p>Universal School Meals (USM) <i>Vermont Public Schools would be required to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students, every school day. Requirement is phased in over 5 years. As part of school budgets, USM would be paid for through the Education Fund.</i></p>	<p>S.100 as passed by Senate on April 29th includes Universal Breakfast, starting in the 2022-23 school year. It also includes a task force, headed by the Agency of Education to develop a plan for Universal School Lunch, to be brought to the General Assembly in January 2022. <i>**the task force language is also included in the current draft of H.106 in the Senate Education Committee**</i></p>
<p>Vermont Food for Vermont Kids Financial incentive for meeting local purchasing % goals in schools.</p>	<p>\$500,000 ARPA funds in Big Bill – Senate Version. <i>**the Local Incentive language is also included in the current draft of H.106 in the Senate Education Committee**</i></p>
<p>Farm to School & Early Childhood REQUEST: \$500,000 in base funding annually. (FY21 - \$171k) <i>Current program in VAAFM that offers small grants to schools and childcare providers to start or supplement farm to school programs. Also, grants to partner orgs to provide technical assistance.</i></p>	<p>This was in s.100 as introduced by the Senate Agriculture Committee, but it was pulled out by the Senate Appropriations Committee and was not funded. The House also did not include an increase for Farm to School and Early Childhood in the Budget, so it is level-funded at \$171k in H.439 (Big Bill) as passed by the House & Senate.</p>
<p>Agency of Education Position in Child Nutrition Program <i>To support schools with transition to universal school meals.</i></p>	<p>S.100 as passed by the Senate creates a position in the Child Nutrition Program. As created, it will transfer an existing position to the Child Nutrition Program, which Secretary French has indicated he can do, but needs language. It also appropriates \$100k for FY22 for this position. <i>**the AOE position is also included in the current draft of H.106 in the Senate Education Committee**</i></p>

S.100 as passed by the Senate: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0100/S-0100%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf>

H.106 Senate Education Committee draft, May7:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/Senate%20Education/Bills/H.106/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.106~James%20DesMarais~%20Draft%208.1,%205-7-2021%20Senate%20Education%20Amendment~5-7-2021.pdf> (starts on page15)