

Governor's Recommended FY 2022 State Budget
Vermont Senate and Congressional Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
Feb. 8th, 2021

Universal School Meals/Additional Position AOE Child Nutrition

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for funding an additional position at Vt AOE Child Nutrition.

As you have heard, schools have been feeding children at no cost to families during the pandemic. This has been an unanticipated pilot of Universal School Meals and the results are exactly as we have been predicting for years. The elimination of stigma, shame and fear around school meals, increased participation and better focus and performance academically. It has been a burden lifted from families who are struggling with the economic challenges brought on by Covid 19.

Many school districts are now planning to continue Universal School Meals through Provision 2 when the waivers end. This wave of program change will create an intense workload for our partners at VT AOE Child Nutrition who are already working at capacity.

To meet the increase in applications and implementations of these programs, AOE CN must be adequately staffed to guide schools districts through the process while continuing to offer support in the myriad of other programs, shifting waivers and changing guidance as we move forward in School Nutrition.

\$100,000 funding for this additional position for AOE Child is necessary to continue supporting child nutrition programs, to keep children fed and families supported.

Thank you,

Karyl Kent

President School Nutrition Association of Vermont

LNSU School Nutrition Director