



Dear Policy Makers,

We, the undersigned, support S.100, the bill that would provide universal school meals at all Vermont public schools, **because every student should have access to the same things while at school, whether it is educational opportunities or a healthy breakfast and lunch.**

We believe that all students need good nutrition to learn well, and that no student should learn what hunger feels like at school.

Research shows that universal school meals serve up many benefits, from students' health to school culture and local food purchasing. Universal school meals improve performance in math and English language arts by up to 10 weeks of learning. Serving universal school meals increases participation by students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, and improves obesity and health outcomes. The studies show that the greatest improvements are realized by those students who were not eligible for free school meals under the traditional school meal program.

Universal school meals supports families by reducing financial anxiety and overall stress on students and families, and improves the relationship between caregivers and school principals. And, farmers and the local agriculture economy benefit, as schools serving universal school meals report that they are able to purchase more food from local farmers.

In 2019, the Urban Institute found that up to 42% of Vermont children living in food insecure households are not eligible for free school meals or for 3SquaresVT. We need to take the money out of school meals so that every student can eat at school every day. **It's time for universal school meals.**

Signed,

Abbey Group	Counseling Service of Addison County	Hotel Vermont	Retreat Farm	United Way of Lamoille County
ACLU of Vermont	CVOEO	Hunger Free Vermont	Putney Foodshelf, Inc.	United Way of Windham County
Addison Central Teens	CW Print + Design	Intervale Center	Rhino Foods	United Ways of Vermont/Vermont 211
Alburgh Family Clubhouse	Downstreet Housing & Community Development	King Arthur Baking	Rights and Democracy	Upper Valley Haven, Inc.
American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter	Elizabeth King Childcare	Lake Champlain Chamber	Rural Vermont	Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility
Aunt Dots Place	Elm Hill School	Lamoille Community Food Share	Salvation Farms	Vermont Commission on Women
Barton Community Giving Garden	Essex Wesford School Distict	Lamoille North Supervisory Union	School Nutrition Association of Vermont	Vermont Education Equity Project
Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.	Evergreen Gardens of Vermont	Lawson's Finest Liquids	Sheldon Methodist Church Food Shelf	Vermont Farmers Food Center
Benn Co Head Start	Family Center of Washington County	Listen Community Services	Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	Vermont FEED, Shelburne Farms
Bethel Food Shelf	Feeding Chittenden	Main Street Alliance of Vermont	Special Olympics Vermont	Vermont Foodbank
Black River Good Neighbor Services	Food Connects	Maple Run Supervisory Union	Springfield Family Center, Inc.	Vermont Legal Aid
Brattleboro Food Co-op	Forward Philanthropy	MAUSD School Nutrition Staff	Springfield Food Co-op	Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
BROC Community Action	Franklin Grand Isle Community Action	Middlebury Area Clergy Association	St Brigids Kitchen and Pantry	Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Cabot Creamery	Granite City Grocery	Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op	The Alchemist	Vermont Studio Center
Capstone Community Action	Grass Cattle Company	Mission Farm	The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ and its Conference Ministers	Vermont-NEA
Center for an Agricultural Economy	Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services, Inc.	National Life Group	The DREAM Program	Voices for Vermont's Children
Center for Science in the Public Interest	Green Mountain Farm-to-School	Neighboring Food Co-op Association	The Hunger Councils of Vermont	VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Central Vermont Supervisory Union	Green Mountain Self-Advocates	NOFA-VT	The Plainfield Co-op	Willing Hands
Children's Literacy Foundation	Green Mountain United Way	Northeast Kingdom Community Action	Thetford Elementary School	Windham Northeast Supervisory Union
City Market, Onion River Co-op	Greensboro United Church of Christ	Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	Trinity Children's Center	Windsor Central Supervisory Union
Clean Yield Asset Management	Groennfell Meadery	Orange County Parent Child Center	United Way of Northwest Vermont	Young at Heart Senior Center
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	Groundworks Collaborative	Orange East Supervisory Union	United Way of Addison County	
Community of Vermont Elders	Guilford Cares Inc	Pine Forest Children's Center		