

Say YES to growing strong and healthy children for a strong and healthy agricultural environment and economy in VT.

In my fifteen years as a School Nutrition Professional I have taken the health of the students I serve and the health of my community quite seriously. When I consider these values in my daily work, I can't help but consider the inequity in the structure of the way school meals are paid for. We provide all of the necessary tools needed for students to succeed in their academics regardless of a families ability to pay for the supplies except the basic human need of good nutrition. All students need a healthy breakfast and lunch to be successful in their school day. There have been countless times that a child has looked longingly at another student's tray filled with local fresh ingredients. The story is often that parents can't afford to purchase school meals regularly and they don't qualify for free meals.

Balancing a budget in food service is no easy task. Now add the fact that schools don't control the pricing(or reimbursement) and they often have thousands of dollars in uncollected meal fees in spite of valiant efforts to collect payment, it's impossible to run a pricing program providing meals with fresh local ingredients that doesn't run a deficit.

Let's level the playing field for our children and put our tax dollars back into our community. We need the whole package of universal lunch, universal breakfast, and local food purchasing support for Every Student-Every Meal- Every School!

Laura La Vacca, Food Services Director

Addison Central School District