

Supports and Resources for Nutrition Services

Vermont Local Wellness Policy Guide

General Strategies/Resources

- Utilize resources from the [Smarter Lunchrooms Movement](#) to equip school lunchrooms with evidence-based tools that improve child eating behaviors and thus improve the health of children.
- Offer summer meals through the Summer Food Service Program or through the National School Lunch Program regardless of the percent of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals.
- Specify strategies to increase participation in school meal programs. See [School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity](#).
- [Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Program](#) and [Hunger Free Vermont](#) provide assistance to schools in establishing school breakfast and lunch programs, and also implementing Universal Meals Program.
- Use of Agency of Education and Team Nutrition's Resource Library, technical assistance tools and materials, recipes, and guidance to improve the quality of school meals.

Local Food Procurement Strategies/Resources

- Strategies and resources for purchasing local food and beverage products directly from farmers, manufacturers, distributors, etc., are available:
 - [USDA local procurement resources](#)
 - [VT AOE procurement resources](#)
 - [VT FEED local procurement guide](#)
- [USDA Buy American memo](#)

Food Service Personnel Strategies/Resources³

- The state agency provides annual training in food service and administrative practices for school food service staff.
- [Vermont School Nutrition Association](#) provides ongoing training opportunities.
- [VT FEED](#) offers a range of professional development opportunities around the state, as well as customized courses upon request.
- School nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA [Professional Standards for child nutrition professionals](#).

Drinking Water Access Resources/Strategies

- [Improving Access to Drinking Water in Schools](#) is a Bridging the Gap and CDC resource to help schools address water accessibility in their wellness policy.
- See also [Increasing Access to Drinking Water in Schools](#), another CDC resource.