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*Guiding Communities to Improve the  
Nutritional and Physical Well Being of  
Children and Their Families*



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## **Rhode Island Prototype RFP and Contract for School Food Service**

### **Management:**

### **Key Language that Promotes Local Purchasing**

#### ***RFP Language***

- € **LEA Objectives section includes:**
  - “To engage in USDA’s Farm to School initiative in an effort to connect schools (K-12) with RI/local farms in order to serve healthy meals using locally produced foods”
  - “To maximize the use of RI-grown/locally grown products, including but not limited to fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, whenever possible”
- € **Sourcing Section includes:** “The LEA encourages the use of RI-grown/locally-grown products, including but not limited to fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, whenever possible. To maximize participation in the RI Farm-to-School Program, product availability and pricing information will be sought and regularly monitored from RI farms, including the Rhody Fresh dairy cooperative. Purchases must be made from RI farms when comparable or higher quality product is available at an equal or lesser cost than from the FSMC’s current primary vendor. In keeping with the LEA’s desire to maximize participation in the RI Farm-to-School Program, the LEA maintains the right to make the final selection of a vendor for milk. In the event the LEA determines a specific product/product line is necessary for its Food Service Program, the LEA maintains the right to direct the FSMC to negotiate for such product. If within six (6) weeks, the FSMC does not secure such product, the LEA reserves the right to make such purchase and the FSMC must use such product in the LEA’s Food Service Program.”
- € **Includes LEA Specifications Attachment to be Completed by the LEA** (*See Newport Specs*)

#### ***Contract Language***

- € **The Purchasing Section includes:**
  - “The FSMC, as the agent of the LEA, will maximize the use of RI grown/locally grown products, including but not limited to, fruits, vegetable and dairy products, whenever possible, and when purchased by the LEA directly, such fruits, vegetables, and dairy products must be used by the FSMC in the LEA’s Food Service Program.”
  - “The FSMC shall engage in RI’s Farm-to-School initiative in an effort to connect schools (K - 12) with RI / local farms in order to serve healthy meals using locally-produced foods.”
  - “The FSMC shall produce a monthly report which documents the procurement of RI grown / locally grown products including the local farm source, the product(s) purchased and the value of the products purchased on behalf of the LEA.”