

Good Food Procurement 2014 (Res-035-14/15)

Date Noticed: 11/18/2014 Date of Action: 12/9/2014

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District procures over \$100 million annually in food and food supplies. The large-scale volume demands include serving over 650,000 meals per day and 128 million meals in the 2013-2014 academic year. Subsequently, the purchasing of good food is a vital component to providing for the nutritional needs of all children in the District;

Whereas, More than 80% of students in the District qualify for federal and state meal benefits through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the After School Snack and Supper Program, and the Summer Food Service Program;

Whereas, In practicing good food procurement methods, the District can support a regional food system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible. Thoughtful purchasing practices throughout the District can nationally impact the creation and availability of a local, sustainable good food system. In turn, the District has partnered with school districts in New York, Chicago, Dallas, Miami and Orlando to exchange best practices when it comes to good food policies, local procurement, and sound environmental standards;

Whereas, The District has changed school menus and food procurement contracts to implement the Institute of Medicine's school meal nutrition recommendations by approving multi-year contracts to provide fresh produce, bread, and dairy. Within a thorough list of evaluation criteria, the District incorporated a preference for vendors with a locally sourced produce and dairy plan, using components of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's definition of good food as a guide;

Whereas, The District has eliminated milk with added sugars and flavoring, incorporated food policy motions that set nutritional standards for food authorized for sale at school sites, and prohibited the sale of soda in school vending machines, student stores, and cafeterias;

Whereas, Good food is defined as food that is healthy, affordable, fair, and sustainable. These foods meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, provide freedom from chronic ailment, and are delicious and safe. All participants in the food supply chain receive fair compensation, fair treatment, and are free of exploitation. Good food is available to purchase for all income levels. High quality food is equitable and physically and culturally accessible to all. Food is produced, processed, distributed, and recycled locally using the principles of environmental stewardship (in terms of water, soil, and pesticide management);

Whereas, The District adopted the Good Food Procurement resolution in 2012 and has implemented the Good Food Purchasing Guidelines of the LA Food Policy Council, supporting local, sustainable, fair and humane production practices. The commitment has created at least 125 Los Angeles County jobs and provided economic stability for small local producers. The continued implementation of the comprehensive good food program will promote the ongoing leadership of the District in being a good food leader in our community and nationwide; and

Whereas, Good food procurement refers to the sourcing and purchasing of food to supply District foodservice operations; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District reaffirms its commitment to the Good Food Procurement resolution (2012) to improve our region's food system through the adoption and implementation of the Good Food Purchasing Guidelines, which emphasize the following values:

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1. **Local Economies**- support small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations within the local area or region.
2. **Environmental Sustainability** ☐ source from producers that employ sustainable production systems that reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; avoid the use of hormones, antibiotics, and genetic engineering; conserve soil and water; protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity; and reduce on-farm energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **Valued Workforce** – provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation for all food chain workers and producers from production to consumption.
4. **Animal Welfare** – provide healthy and humane care for livestock.
5. **Nutritional** – promote health and well-being by offering generous portions of vegetables, fruit, and whole grains; reducing salt, added sugars, fats, and oils; and by eliminating artificial additives;

Resolved further, That the Los Angeles Unified School District commits to continue taking the following steps in support of good food:

1. As outlined in the Good Food Procurement resolution (2012), the District commits to annually increasing our procurement of good food to meet multi-year benchmarks at the baseline level or beyond for five value categories- local economies, environmental sustainability, valued work force, animal welfare, and nutrition;
2. Establish supply chain accountability and traceability system with vendors/distributors to verify sourcing commitments, assess current food procurement practices, and compile assessment results in a progress report; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Board directs the Superintendent to commit to the following actions:

1. Incorporate Good Food Guidelines into Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and contracts for food services, where available, including a requirement that poultry RFPs and contracts should meet antibiotic and hormone-free standards in the Good Food Guidelines;
2. Request that bidders include a plan to meet the Good Food Purchasing Pledge standards at a five star level in their RFPs;
3. Initiate an assessment of food procurement practices for all approved vendors within six months of contract award;
4. Develop and adopt a multi-year action plan with benchmarks to comply with the Good Food Procurement resolution (2012) within one year;
5. Provide student and community nutrition education about this resolution and the Good Food Purchasing Pledge through extensive internal and external marketing and awareness campaigns;
6. Direct the District's Office of Government Relations to advocate Congress to reduce programmatic waste, include water as a reimbursable meal component, eliminate the reduced priced category and increase reimbursement rates for California equal to Alaska and/or Hawaii;
7. Report to the Board annually on implementation progress of the Good Food Procurement resolution (2012).

Sponsor: Steven Zimmer

Cosponsors:

Richard Vladovic

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Bennett Kayser

Moved by: Steven Zimmer

Second: Mónica García

Votes:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

George McKenna III.....	Yes
Mónica Ratliff.....	Yes
Bennett Kayser.....	Yes
Steven Zimmer.....	Yes
Richard Vladovic.....	Yes
Tamar Galatzan.....	Yes
Mónica García.....	Yes