

Values-Aligned Procurement Goals & Definitions

Guide for School Districts

Food & Nutrition Services Procurement Goals & Terms

INSTRUCTIONS: Below is an example of procurement goals related to purchasing local and values-aligned foods. This document also contains a placeholder where districts can insert their own definition for values-aligned foods. Department procurement goals should speak broadly to the department's vision and support its actualization. These goals empower the department's food buyers and key decision-makers to purchase the highest-quality foods in line with the department's vision. To make each goal actionable and measurable, we recommend setting completion dates for each goal. Demonstrate the department's values and pioneering initiatives to the school board, community, staff, and potential vendors by sharing these goals and achievements with the broader school community. To create a document to share with key stakeholders, cut and paste these goals into a new document, customize each statement to meet your department's vision, and include your district's or department's letterhead.

1. Increase procurement of local foods to 25% in SY 24/25.

EXPLANATION: Currently, the District sources an estimated 5% of our food, including some produce, proteins, and dairy, from local sources such as area farmers and community-based businesses. The District hopes to increase this to 25% by the end of next school year.

2. Menu no less than 10 certified organic food items in SY 24/25.

EXPLANATION: At this time, the District does not buy organic foods. Certified organic is a production system that supports the health of the soil, ecosystem, and students by eliminating the use of toxic chemicals in food production. The District hopes to increase the number of organic items on our menus from 0 to 10 by the end of next school year.



3. Onboard five new local farmers/vendors in SY 24/25.

EXPLANATION: The majority of local foods purchased by the District come from our prime vendor and the DoD Fresh program. The District would like to diversify its sources of local foods to include buying directly from area farmers, food hubs, and community-based businesses so that the District might access a greater variety of local foods and establish a stable local supply chain.

4. Work with vendors to reduce packaging waste from purchased foods and switch from single-serve items to bulk items, reusable containers, and more recyclable containers in SY 24/25.

EXPLANATION: The District aims to minimize waste in all aspects of its business operations. District procurement officers will work with vendors to implement waste reduction strategies as they relate to individually wrapped foods and commercially packaged goods.

5. Work with the Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) committee to include our Food Standards as part of the LSWP during the next Triennial Assessment process.

EXPLANATION: During the next Triennial Assessment of the Local Wellness Policy, request that the Food Standards of the Food & Nutrition Department be included in the LSWP.

Values-Aligned Terms & Definitions

The definition of local used by the Food & Nutrition Service Department is food that is grown and/or manufactured within a [xxx-mile] radius of our District Office [include address here].

The definition of a family farm used by the Food & Nutrition Service Department is a farm that is operated by the person who owns or leases long-term the land being cultivated, who can make decisions about how that land is managed, and where a majority of their livelihood is derived from the act of farming and/or raising animals on this farm [feel free to change as needed].



The definition of climate smart foods used by the Food & Nutrition Service Department is food that is grown or and/or manufactured according to and is certified Regenerative Certified Organic (ROC) [feel free to change as needed].

Add additional terms and definitions here

