

gb #9-137

Request that the Administration provide a report regarding the status of farm-to-school programs in the district.

The Worcester Public Schools School Wellness Policy Section II Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus states: the school cafeteria serving space(s) will focus on marketing the reimbursable meal and other “whole-food” commodities such as milk, fresh fruit and vegetables. The School Nutrition Program will purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables and other commodities in season and continue to work with the Department of Agriculture to secure and develop availability.

Commencing as one of the original six pilot Massachusetts Farm to School Districts during Fall 2014, local purchasing continues to expand yearly from a variety of suppliers including but not limited to small/medium/large farms direct, produce aggregators, and mainline distributors.

Fresh produce availability and pricing is solicited weekly with purchases awarded by item according lowest price, responsiveness, application, and reliable transparency/statement of origin with a preference for local when in season and/or available.