

## GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM

District of Columbia Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services (DCPS FNS) is a member of the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP), a national coalition working to create a transparent and equitable food system. GFPP provides a metric based, flexible framework that supports and encourages large institutions to direct their buying power toward five core values: *local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare and nutrition*. It is important to us that our food procurement practices support responsible production practices in line with the GFPP, and our vendors are critical partners for helping us make positive procurement changes to advance the GFPP values within our district.

### Good Food Purchasing Program Core Values:

- **Local Economies:** Support diverse, family and cooperatively owned, small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations within the local area or region.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Source from producers that employ sustainable production systems to reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; avoid the use of hormones, routine antibiotics and genetic engineering; conserve and regenerate soil and water; protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity; and reduce on-farm energy and water consumption, food waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Reduce menu items that have high carbon and water footprints, using strategies such as plant-forward menus that feature small portions of animal proteins in a supporting role.
- **Valued Workforce:** Source from producers and vendors that provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation for all food chain workers and producers from production to consumption.
- **Animal Welfare:** Source from producers that provide healthy and humane conditions for farm animals.
- **Nutrition:** Promote health and well-being by offering generous portions of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and minimally processed foods, while reducing salt, added sugars, saturated fats, and red meat consumption and eliminating artificial additives. Improving equity, accessibility, and consumption of high quality, culturally relevant Good Food in all communities is central to advancing Good Food purchasing practices.

### Good Food Purchasing Program Assessments

As part of the GFPP, DCPS FNS conducts an annual analysis to gain a comprehensive overview of our food procurement trends, understand the extent to which our suppliers are aligned with GFPP values, and set district procurement goals. The analysis aggregates procurement information provided by each of our vendors for produce, meat & poultry, milk & dairy, seafood, and grains & legumes. To complete this analysis, DCPS FNS requires food vendors to track product information regarding farm/supplier of origin and production location for all products.

Additional information about the GFPP can be found at: <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org>.  
Questions about GFPP and DCPS FNS' participation in the program can be directed to:

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