

**Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program
Funding Attestation Statement
2024/25 School Year**

**The School Food Authority (SFA), or Sponsor, as named below, attests to the following:
(Check all of the statements below)**

- The SFA understands that awarded LFS funds may ONLY be used exclusively to purchase domestically produced, unprocessed, or minimally processed food products. Examples of allowable food products include fruits and vegetables (including 100% juices); grain products such as pastas and rice; meats (whole, pieces, or food items such as ground meats); meat alternates such as beans or legumes, and fluid milk and other dairy foods such as cheese and yogurt. Foods in a wide variety of minimal processing states (e.g., whole, cut, pureed, etc.) and/or forms (e.g., fresh, frozen, canned, dried, etc.) are also allowable. Foods that are generally understood to be significantly processed or prepared are unallowable. Examples of unallowable products would include baked goods such as breads, muffins, or crackers; prepackaged sandwiches or meals; other prepared and/or pre-cooked items that come ready-to-eat or that require no further preparation beyond heating (eg. chicken nuggets, fish sticks, pre-made pizzas, etc).
- The SFA understands that all food products purchased using awarded LFS funds must be locally or regionally produced food. Locally and regionally produced food means food that is raised, produced, aggregated, stored, processed, and distributed in the locality or region where the final product is marketed to consumers, so that the total distance that the product travels between the farm or ranch where the product originates and the point of sale to the end consumer is at most 400 miles, or both the final market and the origin of the product are within the same state or territory.
- To the extent allowable under Federal Procurement regulations for NSLP or the SBP, the SFA is encouraged to purchase food products grown, raised, and/or produced within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and prioritize purchasing from socially disadvantaged farmers/producers and very small farmers.
- The SFA will not use LFS funds for any non-eligible foods, labor, indirect costs, or other administrative expenses.
- The SFA will comply with all existing School Nutrition Program requirements regarding recordkeeping and use of funds. SFAs are required to maintain documentation supporting food purchases that are allowable for LFS purposes (i.e. unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products), consistent with the regular program recordkeeping requirements.
- The SFA will provide copies of food purchase records to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Food Assistance as requested to substantiate purchases using LFS funds and will complete a no less than quarterly report detailing the following information: name of farmer or small business, location of farmer or small business, dollar value awarded to farmer or small business receiving contracts, type(s) of food(s) purchased (fruit, vegetable, dairy, seafood, meat, other), indication of whether the farmer or small business is socially disadvantaged, and if the SFA is purchasing from the farmer or small business for the first time.

OPTIONAL: For SFAs opting in, complete the following two statements if this applies:

- The funding ranges are estimates based on a .25 cent/school lunch served in the 2022-2023 school year and exact awards will be determined and distributed equitably based on the number of eligible schools opting-in to the funding and the amount of available funds. SFAs can propose an ideal award amount within the dollar range listed above with the understanding that PDA will make the final decision. If you would like to propose an ideal award amount, list it here: _____.
- The SFA will opt to receive a lesser amount of funding than is indicated in the estimated award range. PDA should follow-up to discuss.*

Check only if this applies and the SFA is declining the LFS funding:

- The SFA is declining the LFS funding.

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Sponsor Name: _____

AUN: _____ PDA Agreement #: _____

Chief Administrator Name

Title

Chief Administrator Digital Signature

Month/Day/Year