

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senators Siplin and Sobel

581-03498-09

2009254c1

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to school food service programs;  
3 amending s. 1006.06, F.S.; creating the Florida Farm  
4 Fresh Schools Program within the Department of  
5 Education; providing legislative intent; requiring the  
6 department to work with the Department of Agriculture  
7 and Consumer Services to recommend policies and rules  
8 to the State Board of Education relating to school  
9 food services which encourage schools and school  
10 districts in this state to buy fresh and local food;  
11 requiring the Department of Education, in  
12 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and  
13 Consumer Services, to provide outreach services  
14 regarding the benefits of fresh food products from  
15 this state; requiring the program to maintain  
16 compliance with the rules and regulations of the  
17 National School Lunch Program; providing an effective  
18 date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 1006.06,  
23 Florida Statutes, to read:

24 1006.06 School food service programs.—

25 (6) The Legislature, recognizing that school children need  
26 nutritious food not only for healthy physical and intellectual  
27 development, but also to combat diseases related to poor  
28 nutrition and obesity, establishes the Florida Farm Fresh  
29 Schools Program within the Department of Education as the lead

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30 agency for the program. The program shall:

31 (a) Require the department to work with the Department of  
32 Agriculture and Consumer Services to recommend policies and  
33 rules to the State Board of Education pertaining to school food  
34 services which:

35 1. Encourage the patronization of products from farmers in  
36 this state by requiring school districts and schools to buy  
37 fresh and high-quality foods grown in this state when feasible;

38 2. Encourage and solicit farmers in this state to sell  
39 their products to school districts and schools in this state;

40 3. Require school districts and schools to make reasonable  
41 efforts to select foods based on a preference for those that  
42 have maximum nutritional content; and

43 4. Encourage school districts and schools to demonstrate a  
44 preference for competitively priced organic food products.

45 (b) Require the Department of Education, in collaboration  
46 with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to  
47 provide outreach, guidance, and training to districts, schools,  
48 school food service directors, parent and teacher organizations,  
49 and students about the benefits of fresh food products from  
50 farms in this state.

51 (c) Maintain compliance with the rules and regulations of  
52 the National School Lunch Program.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.