FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROCUREMENT ACT
Act 315 of 2008

AN ACT to provide for the coordination and development of certain farm-to-school procurement processes and procedures; to provide for procedures and recommendations for certain farm product producers to access school-related food programs; to provide for certain powers and duties for the departments of education and agriculture; and to provide for the dissemination of certain information to schools and farm product producers.

History: 2008, Act 315, Imd. Eff. Dec. 18, 2008.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

388.841 Short title.

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "farm-to-school procurement act".

History: 2008, Act 315, Imd. Eff. Dec. 18, 2008.

388.842 Definitions.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Farm product" means that term as defined in section 2 of the Michigan right to farm act, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.472.

(b) "MDA" means the Michigan department of agriculture.

(c) "MDE" means the Michigan department of education.

History: 2008, Act 315, Imd. Eff. Dec. 18, 2008.

388.843 Memorandum of understanding; execution between MDE and MDA; duties.

Sec. 3. (1) The MDE and the MDA shall collaborate and cooperate by means of a memorandum of understanding executed between the departments in order to implement the provisions of this act.

(2) As part of the collaboration, the MDE shall do the following:

(a) Investigate the potential of various procurement procedures and tools for school food authorities to purchase local farm products and abide by federal regulations, including, but not limited to, the small purchase threshold and multiple or line-item awards to farmers, processors, and suppliers within larger food contracts.

(b) Educate food service directors on the small purchase threshold and other procurement procedures and tools and promote their use for farm-to-school initiatives.

(c) Implement food preparation training for food service staff to accommodate sourcing fresh and local foods.

(d) Encourage school food service directors to include local farmers, processors, and suppliers when taking bids for farm products that fall under the small purchase threshold.

(e) Encourage all new school construction projects to consider kitchen facilities capable of producing fresh and healthy school meals and opportunities for hands-on learning.

(3) As part of the collaboration, the MDA shall do the following:

(a) House a farm-to-school point person to coordinate efforts between MDA, MDE, and the Michigan department of community health, who would be responsible for identifying local farmers, processors, and suppliers and work with MDE to make that information available to school food service directors and for creating and disseminating information on the school food procurement process to help farmers, processors, and suppliers learn more about the process.

(b) Identify, target, and promote job creation around farm-to-school initiatives.

(c) In cooperation with commodity groups and growers associations, utilize existing web-based market development tools or adopt a voluntary web-based directory of farmers searchable by location. The directory should be updated and consistently maintained and usable by anyone interested in locating farmers and Michigan farm products.

(d) Investigate opportunities for farmers to supply their products to commercial distributors.

History: 2008, Act 315, Imd. Eff. Dec. 18, 2008.

388.844 Funds from federal, state, or private sources.

Sec. 4. The MDE and the MDA may accept funds from any federal, state, or private source to implement this act.

History: 2008, Act 315, Imd. Eff. Dec. 18, 2008.

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