

## Geographic Preference

The 2008 Farm Bill encourages Child Nutrition Program sponsors to apply a geographic preference when buying locally grown and locally raised unprocessed agricultural products.

### Requirements:

- ✓ A Geographic Preference may only apply to the purchase of locally grown or raised, unprocessed or minimally processed agricultural products that retain their original characteristics:
  - Unprocessed agricultural products: chopped, cut, sliced, diced or shucked).
  - Does not apply to any products that have been cooked, heated, canned or that have any additives or fillers.
- ✓ Must define local:
  - Defined by the sponsor (could include # of miles, which counties, geographic area).
  - Must not be defined in a way that restricts free and open competition.
  - Is tied to the agricultural product, not the location of the respondent.
- ✓ The solicitation must clearly define and describe the evaluation criteria of award to be used:
  - A geographic preference can be applied using point preference system, a percentage based system or different system.

### Reference:

- ✓ [7 CFR 210.21\(g\)](#)
- ✓ [SP03, CACFP02, SFSP02-2013 Procurement Geographic Preference Q&As - Part II](#)
- ✓ [SP18-2011 Procurement Geographic Preference Q and A](#)

### Resources:

- ✓ [OSPI CNS Procurement web page](#)
- ✓ [A School's Guide to Purchasing Washington-Grown Food](#)

### Acronym Reference

-CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
-CNS	Child Nutrition Services
-LEA	Local Education Agency
-OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
-NSLP	National School Lunch Program
-USDA	United States Department of Agriculture