

2023-14 Local Foods for Washington Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the locations of OSPIs contracted warehouses?

A: Spokane Washington – Dry Storage (E. Washington)

Grandview Washington – Frozen Storage (E. Washington)

Algona Washington – Both Dry and Frozen Storage (W. Washington)

Q: Are these foods part of the USDA Brown Box options for Local Education Agencies?

A: They are separate from USDA Brown Box options, and we intend for Local Foods for Washington Schools to be different items from what schools receive through USDA. The foods will be stored in the same warehouses, ordered in the same manner as USDA foods and delivered with school's USDA food orders. This process is familiar to schools.

Q: Are you able to bid on the products you can provide, and if so, is it more desirable to be able to fulfill the entire contract?

A: Respondents can bid on some or all products. Respondents may bid on target products or optional products or both. Price is the primary factor for evaluation, but it is not the only factor. Respondents will not be penalized if they cannot provide all the requested items.

Q: Is WSDA processing acceptable for meat?

A: Because these foods will be used in the USDA National School Lunch Program, the federal rules apply. Meat must be processed under the appropriate USDA or WSDA processing license. Please refer to the [Washington State Department of Agriculture Meat to School Reference Sheet](#) for additional information.

Q: What if the bid is not available to be fulfilled at the proposal time but could be provided later?

A: This question was about fruit growing and processing timelines. OSPI understands that some respondents will propose products that will be grown summer 2023 and processed in fall 2023. This is acceptable. OSPI must purchase all products no later than January 2024 using Local Food for Schools funding.

Q: Can I reach out to another tribe for fish?

A: Yes, this is acceptable if the product is harvested within 400 miles of one of two frozen foods warehouses in Algona or Grandview, Washington. Please respond as an aggregator.



Q: Does a single audit apply at \$750,000?

A: OSPI will be procuring and purchasing goods from a vendor using federal funds. This is a contracted purchase and the vendor will not be subject to the federal grant requirements including the federal single audit requirement.

Q: Where are the links to the RFP forms?

A: The RFP is available on [WEBS](#) or the [OSPI webpage](#). On the OSPI webpage, the RFP is one pdf of 54 pages inclusive of all documents and forms required for submission.

Q: Can OSPI accept product that is already in producer inventory?

A: Yes.

Q: How does the additional proposal of optional products affect the approximate contract budget for targeted products?

A: Targeted products will have a higher priority. Optional products will be considered as well.

Q: What is needed for the local sourcing question in the Vendor Questionnaire?

A: The local sourcing and product origin question is found in the Vendor Questionnaire for Aggregators/Distributors. In this section aggregators should include the location the proposed product was grown, raised, or produced. The answer to the question should provide a description of the aggregator/distributor's work with socially disadvantaged groups including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), woman owned and veteran farmer/ranchers/producers/fishers, etc.

Q: Does OSPI prefer smaller, more frequent deliveries or one large delivery?

A: OSPI does not have a specific preference. Respondents should keep in mind the project period for Local Food for School funding. Schools will begin ordering these products in August 2023. OSPIs last purchase must be received before January 2024.