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Share your Photos for National School Lunch Week

For Immediate Release October 9, 2017

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BARRE, VT. – The Vermont Agency of Education is encouraging all Vermont schools to share photos on social media of their healthy and farm-fresh school lunches in celebration of National School Lunch Week, October 9-13, 2017.

School lunches are an invaluable opportunity to ensure all Vermont students are well nourished and prepared to be productive learners throughout the day.

Vermont schools served 7,779,277 school lunches in the 2016-2017 school year. Many Vermont schools now offer a full salad bar, and all lunches include servings of a variety of vegetables, fruits, a whole grain item, fresh milk, and a protein item.

According to the 2015 USDA Farm to School census, 83 percent of Vermont school districts have a farm-to-school program – the highest percentage in the nation. In these schools, our children are eating the best Vermont-grown foods our farms can provide. Given research on the importance of good nutrition to strong physical and cognitive development, bringing farm-fresh foods to our school meals is an important investment in our children.

In 2013, Vermont became the first state in the nation to cover the student cost for school meals for all reduced-price eligible students. Sixty-nine Vermont schools currently offer school lunch at no cost to all students.

“We’re hearing anecdotal reports from those Vermont schools that offer breakfast and lunch at no cost, using a new federal option called the Community Eligibility Provision, that they have more students participating in school meals, fewer discipline issues and fewer trips to the nurse’s office,” said Agency of Education Secretary Rebecca Holcombe.

The Vermont Agency of Education is proud to administer the federal programs that support nutritious meals in schools to ensure that every program receives the maximum federal and state funding available, and ensure that students have the food they need to thrive in their academic and civic life.

[Learn more about the AOE Child Nutrition Program and Farm to School programs.](#)

Post your images to your school's social media account using hashtags
#NationalSchoolLunchWeek and #VTed.

Connect with the Vermont Agency of Education on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).

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