



## ***DAS' Federal Food Program participates in state and federal dignitary's school lunch program***

WEST HARTFORD, Conn., April 5, 2013 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today discussed USDA efforts to improve school meals and outlined the need for a renewed commitment to improve childhood nutrition, which will lead to a healthier generation of Americans. Sec. Vilsack visited Henry A. Wolcott Elementary School because it's one of 16 in the district that was certified in 2011 through the HealthierUS School Challenge.

In remarks at the school, Vilsack noted that America's students now have healthier and more nutritious school meals due to improved nutrition standards implemented as a result of the historic Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The new standards ensure that the 32 million students who participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program have access to meals that contain fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and are limited in fat, sodium and sugar.

"For many kids, including 300,000 children who eat school lunch here in Connecticut, healthy meals at school are vital to growing up healthy and strong," said Vilsack. "When children are given the tools they need to make healthy food choices it sets them up to do better in school, while creating generational change that will lead to a healthier Nation."

DAS Fed Foods Program Manager Linda Hubeny said, "The majority of Connecticut school nutrition programs have already made major strides offering healthy choices, as well as an increased use of legumes, whole grains, and fresh, regionally sourced fruits and vegetables. The Connecticut Food Distribution Program supports CT

*continued...*



## Contracts Awarded over the last 14 Days

Click on the category to see the contract  
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**12PSX0365** Snow Removal Services at CT Air National Guard Station.

**12PSX0370** Bituminous Concrete Materials and Bridge Deck Membrane Waterproofing (Complete in Place).

**13PSX0014** Honda Accord Coupe LX-S.

## State Supplier Diversity Certifications Issued over the last 14 Days

The State's Supplier Diversity program targets at least 25% of the state's business be transacted with small businesses including those owned by minorities, women and the disabled. To participate, fill out an application with the Department of Administrative Services. Once certified, you can bid on contracts covered by the program as well as all other state contracts.

Use this link to see the companies the DAS State Supplier Diversity program has certified over that past 14 days.

### *...DAS Fed Foods continued*

School Nutrition Programs by offering healthy options that meet the USDA meal pattern through the USDA Foods Program and fresh locally, regional grown produce through the DOD Fresh Produce Program. It was nice to have the Secretary come to Connecticut and eat school lunch with the students prior to speaking with us. Trish Malloy, School Food Service Director at West Hartford Schools, runs an excellent program and it was nice to see Federal, State, and Local leaders there supporting our programs."

The USDA Foods Program's purpose is twofold: it seeks to support American farmers economically while providing low-income Americans with nutritious inexpensive food. The State of Connecticut receives approximately \$11 million through the USDA Foods Program, administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) distributes the USDA Foods through the DAS Connecticut Food Distribution Program (FDP). USDA donates over \$1 billion worth of food each year to people in the United States.

*\*Some information was taken from the USDA website.*

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