AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:195.2, relative to school nutrition programs; to create a pilot program to be implemented in certain schools; to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to collaborate relative to the pilot program; requires the state Department of Education to administer the pilot program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:195.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§195.2. Lifestyle Choices pilot program

A. The legislature finds that:

(1) Children can make more healthy choices with increased access to fresh, unprocessed produce; whole, healthy grains; and lean sources of protein that all contribute to a balanced diet.

(2) Offering healthier options to children is one way to get students involved in nutrition.

(3) Some students do not get well-rounded meals at home, which makes the food they eat at school even more significant.

(4) School lunches should be composed of more health-conscious food and less processed food.

(5) Louisiana students need a base of healthy eating habits that include eating lean meats, fish, fresh produce, and dairy and an understanding of the food pyramid.

B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, shall develop and

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
implement a program whereby fresh food is incorporated into school-provided
lunches at certain schools. The state Department of Education shall administer the
program, the purpose of which is assisting school and school food service personnel
to identify and utilize all available resources to increase the variety of healthy food
options in school nutrition programs.

(2) The Department of Education shall identify and select public school
governing authorities for operation of a pilot program as defined by this Section.

(3) The Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture and
Forestry shall collaboratively:

(a) Provide an inventory of food distribution companies with which public
schools or school districts may contract.

(b) Disseminate procurement guidelines, school food safety information, and
liability insurance requirements to food distribution companies that can potentially
contract with schools and school districts for the implementation of the pilot
program.

(c) Consult with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, the
Southern University Agricultural Center, the Louisiana Farm to School Alliance, and
other stakeholders, as necessary.

C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department
of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Department of Education shall utilize existing
personnel and resources for the development, implementation, and administration of
this program.