

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

H.P. 1347 - L.D. 2017

An Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §44, is amended to read:

§6601-A. Free or reduced-price school meals; Internet-based school meal applications

The department ~~shall~~ may contract for the development and implementation of an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210 and the School Breakfast Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 220 or otherwise make available to public schools an Internet-based application for those programs. The department ~~shall~~ may make available to public schools ~~the an~~ Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals developed under this section on ~~the department's~~ a publicly accessible website. The department shall make ~~the any~~ an Internet-based application developed pursuant to this section in an understandable and uniform format and, to the maximum extent practicable, in a language that parents and legal guardians can understand. A public school may make ~~the an~~ an Internet-based application available for school meal applications on the public school's publicly accessible website. All public schools shall continue to distribute paper applications for school meals to all students. A public school is ~~solely~~ responsible for processing that school's online applications. Data submitted through ~~the an~~ an Internet-based application may not be visible to the department and must be transmitted directly to the applicable public school or other agency making the determination for a student's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. All public schools shall accept data submitted through ~~the an~~ an Internet-based application.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §1, is amended to read:

F. Except as provided under paragraph G, a school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year shall operate an alternative breakfast delivery service that provides breakfast after the start of the school day and before any lunch period in

~~the school begins for students at that public school. A school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 70% of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals under paragraph A participate in the breakfast program under paragraph B is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.~~

The department shall publish annually, by July 1, 2020 and every July 1st thereafter, on its publicly accessible website, information regarding schools required to comply with and schools exempt from this paragraph in the preceding school year, including, but not limited to, the name of the school, any alternative breakfast delivery service operated, free and reduced-price breakfast participation rate and the financial impact of the program on the school nutrition budget.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §2, is amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF
School Finance and Operations Z078**

Initiative: Reduces funding due to the removal of a requirement for an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$250,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> (\$250,000)