



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1679

S.P. 540

In Senate, May 6, 2021

An Act To Address Student Hunger through Expanding Access to Free School Meals

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on May 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Speaker FECTION of Biddeford and
Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York,
VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, MILLETT of Cape
Elizabeth, PIERCE of Falmouth, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. IIII,
3 §1, is amended to read:

4 B. A public school that serves breakfast shall provide ~~all students~~ a student who are is
5 eligible for free and reduced-price meals under paragraph A a meal that meets the
6 requirements of the federal School Breakfast Program set forth in 7 Code of Federal
7 Regulations, Part 220 (2007) at no cost to the student. The State shall provide to the
8 public school funding equal to the difference between the federal reimbursement for a
9 free breakfast and the federal reimbursement for a reduced-price breakfast for each
10 student eligible for a reduced-price breakfast and receiving breakfast.

11 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. NNNN,
12 §1, is amended to read:

13 D. A public school that serves lunch shall provide ~~all students~~ a student who are is
14 eligible for free and reduced-price meals under paragraph A a meal that meets the
15 requirements of the federal National School Lunch Program set forth in 7 Code of
16 Federal Regulations, Part 210 (2019) at no cost to the student. The State shall provide
17 to the public school funding equal to the difference between the federal reimbursement
18 for a free lunch and the federal reimbursement for a reduced-price lunch for each
19 student eligible for a reduced-price lunch and receiving lunch.

20 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶H** is enacted to read:

21 H. A public school that serves breakfast shall provide a student who is ineligible for
22 free or reduced-price meals under paragraph A a meal that meets the requirements of
23 the federal School Breakfast Program set forth in 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part
24 220 (2007) at no cost to the student. The State shall provide to the public school
25 funding equal to the difference between the federal reimbursement for a free breakfast
26 and the full price of the breakfast for each student ineligible for a free or reduced-price
27 breakfast and receiving breakfast.

28 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶I** is enacted to read:

29 I. A public school that serves lunch shall provide a student who is ineligible for free
30 or reduced-price meals under paragraph A a meal that meets the requirements of the
31 federal School Breakfast Program set forth in 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210
32 (2019) at no cost to the student. The State shall provide to the public school funding
33 equal to the difference between the federal reimbursement for a free lunch and the full
34 price of the lunch for each student ineligible for a free or reduced-price lunch and
35 receiving lunch.

36 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶J** is enacted to read:

37 J. A school or school administrative unit shall request the parent or guardian of each
38 student to complete a household income form provided by the department to determine
39 a family's economic status to determine eligibility for state and federal food assistance
40 programs under this subchapter. This requirement does not apply if the school or
41 school administrative unit is able to obtain equivalent information through another
42 means.

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Sec. 6. Participation in federal universal meal options. To the maximum extent possible, a school administrative unit that serves breakfast or lunch and is eligible for the community eligibility provision under the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law, 111-296, Section 104(a) or other federal universal meal programs shall maximize participation in the programs including the federal resources available in those programs by expanding access to breakfast and lunch at no cost for all eligible students at a school.

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SUMMARY

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This bill requires the State to pay the difference between the federal requirement for a free breakfast or lunch and the full price for a breakfast or lunch at no cost to the students who are ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. It also directs schools and school administrative units to request parents and guardians to complete household income forms to determine eligibility for various state and federal food assistance programs. This bill also directs school administrative units to the maximum extent possible to maximize participation in federal school meal programs.