

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—  
H.P. 707 - L.D. 961

**An Act To Provide Equity in Access to Applications for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 480, §1, is further amended to read:

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

The department shall 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. The department shall make available to public schools the Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals developed under this section on the department's publicly accessible website. The department shall make the Internet-based application 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 Internet-based application available for school meal applications on the public school's publicly accessible website. ~~If a public school implements the Internet-based application process under this section, the~~ All public school schools shall continue to distribute paper applications for school meals to all students. A public school ~~implementing the Internet-based application~~ is solely responsible for processing that school's online applications. Data submitted through the Internet-based application may not be visible to the department and must be transmitted directly to the applicable public school.