

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 755 - L.D. 1183

**An Act to Establish the School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6664** is enacted to read:

**§6664. School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund**

**1. School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund.** The School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department to issue grants to eligible school administrative units to improve school meal equipment and programs. The fund consists of money received as appropriations, allocations and contributions from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The fund may be used to provide grants to eligible school administrative units to:

- A. Purchase school kitchen and cafeteria equipment needed to serve healthy meals that meet federal nutrition standards;
- B. Improve food safety in school kitchens and cafeterias;
- C. Support the maintenance and expansion of the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program within the school administrative unit; and
- D. Reimburse food costs related to medically necessary dietary restrictions of students.

For the purposes of this subsection, "eligible school administrative unit" means a school administrative unit that participates in 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 and that meets federal compliance requirements established by the United States Department of Agriculture for those programs.

**2. Federal grant funding.** The department shall apply for any federal grants available for the purposes of this section.

**3. Rules.** The department shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of the fund.

**Sec. 2. Department of Education, Alternative Breakfast Delivery Service Program; lapsed balances.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, \$343,781 of unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Education, Alternative Breakfast Delivery Service Program, General Fund carrying account, All Other line category lapses to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2024.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund N448**

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures in the event funds are received from federal grants.

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$500	\$500
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

**School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund N448**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for grants to eligible school administrative units to purchase school kitchen and cafeteria equipment, improve food safety in school kitchens and cafeterias, reimburse food costs related to medically necessary dietary restrictions of students and support the maintenance and expansion of the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program within the school administrative units.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$343,781	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$343,781</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF  
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$343,781</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$344,281</b></u>	<u><b>\$500</b></u>