

S.F. No. 123 – School Breakfast and Lunch for All Students (1st Engrossment)

Author: Senator Heather Gustafson

Prepared by: Ann Marie Lewis, Senate Counsel (651/296-5301)
Bettsy Hjelseth, Legislative Analyst (651/296-7983)

Date: March 7, 2023

Section 1. **School Meals Policies; Lunch Aid; Food Service Accounting.**

Subdivision 1a. **School lunch aid amounts.** Requires the state to pay a school that participates in the free school meals program the amount specified in subdivision 1d.

Subdivision 1b. **Application.** Requires a school district, charter school, nonpublic school, or other participant in the national school lunch program to apply to the department for school meals payments in the manner provided by the department.

Subdivision 1c. **Free school meals program.**

- (a) Creates the free school meals program in the Department of Education.
- (b) Requires each school that participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an identified student percentage below the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate via the Community Eligibility Provision to participate in the free school meals program.
- (c) Requires each school that participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an identified student percentage at or above the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate via the Community Eligibility Provision to participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision in order to participate in the free school meals program.
- (d) Requires each school that participates in the free school meals program to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture School Breakfast and Lunch Program and provide all students up to two no cost federally reimbursable meals per day.

Subdivision 1d. **Free school meals program aid amount.** Requires the department to provide state funding to every Minnesota school participating in the free school meals program aid equal to the difference between the applicable federal reimbursement rate for a free meal, and the actual federal reimbursement received.

Subdivision 2. **Application.** Strikes national school lunch program payment application language.

Subdivision 4. **No fees.** Strikes language clarifying that a participant that receives school lunch aid must provide lunch at no charge and must not deny a school lunch to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of any outstanding balance in the student's meals account.

Effective Date. Makes the section effective for meals provided on or after July 1, 2023.

Section 2. **School Breakfast Program.**

Subdivision 1. **Purpose; eligibility.** Clarifies that a school district, charter school, or other participant in the federal school breakfast program may receive state breakfast aid.

Subdivision 2. **Program; eligibility.** Strikes language stating that public and nonpublic schools that participate in the federal school breakfast program are eligible for the state breakfast program.

Subdivision 3. **Program reimbursement.** Requires the state to pay a school who participates in the free school meals program the amount specified in section 124D.111, subdivision 1d.

Section 3. **Appropriations; School Meals.** Appropriates aid in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the Department of Education for school lunch aid, school breakfast aid, and administrative costs necessary to implement the free school meals program.

Effective Date. Makes the section effective the day following final enactment.