

**SENATE, No. 3372**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**217th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2017

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**  
**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs DOE to establish online applications for National School Lunch Program and school breakfast programs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning online applications for the National School  
2 Lunch Program and school breakfast programs, amending  
3 P.L.2003, c.4, and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey  
4 Statutes.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. Section 3 of P.L.2003, c.4 (C.18A:33-11) is amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 3. In implementing a school breakfast program **[this act]** under  
12 P.L.2003, c.4 (C.18A:33-9 et seq.), a school district shall:

13 a. publicize the availability of the school breakfast program to  
14 parents and students;

15 b. make every effort to make available the Internet-based  
16 application developed by the Department of Education for school  
17 meal applications pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
18 (pending before the legislature as this bill);

19 c. make every effort to ensure that income-eligible students  
20 are not recognized as program participants by the student body,  
21 faculty, or staff in a manner distinct from student participants who  
22 are not income-eligible. Such efforts shall include, but not be  
23 limited to, the establishment of a meal plan or voucher system  
24 under which students receiving subsidized breakfasts are not  
25 distinguished from students receiving non-subsidized breakfasts;  
26 and

27 **[c.]** d. make every effort to encourage students who are not  
28 income-eligible to participate in the program.

29 (cf: P.L.2003, c.4, s.3)

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31 2. (New section) a. The Department of Education shall  
32 develop and make available to each school district and nonprofit  
33 nonpublic school participating in the National School Lunch  
34 Program or in a school breakfast program, an Internet-based school  
35 meal application.

36 b. A school district or nonprofit nonpublic school participating  
37 in the National School Lunch Program or in a school breakfast  
38 program may implement the Internet-based school meal application  
39 developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section. If a school  
40 district or nonprofit nonpublic school implements the Internet-based  
41 school meal application, it shall also continue to make available  
42 paper applications for enrollment in the National School Lunch  
43 Program or in a school breakfast program.

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 c. If a school district or nonprofit nonpublic school currently  
2 provides an Internet-based school meal application for enrollment  
3 in the National School Lunch Program or in a school breakfast  
4 program, the school district or nonprofit nonpublic school shall  
5 have one year from dates of enactment of P.L. , c. (C. )  
6 (pending before the Legislature as this act) to switch to the Internet-  
7 based school meal application developed by the Department of  
8 Education.

9 d. As used in this section, “school meal application” means an  
10 Internet-based application designed for the online enrollment of  
11 eligible students in the National School Lunch Program or in a  
12 school breakfast program.

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14 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This bill would require the Department of Education to develop  
20 and make available to each school district and nonprofit nonpublic  
21 school participating in the National School Lunch Program or in a  
22 school breakfast program, an Internet-based online school meal  
23 application for eligible students to participate in these programs.  
24 Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or in a  
25 school breakfast program would be encouraged to make the online  
26 school meal application available. A participating school district or  
27 nonprofit nonpublic school that implements the online school meal  
28 application would also be required to continue to make available  
29 paper applications.

30 The bill would save participating school districts and nonprofit  
31 nonpublic schools money and time and increase efficiency by  
32 eliminating the manual entry of student information from thousands  
33 of paper applications. In addition, by making the application  
34 process more streamlined, parents or guardians are more likely to  
35 fill out the application in a timely manner. Finally, with the privacy  
36 of online applications, more eligible students may apply to the  
37 programs as a result.