

ASSEMBLY, No. 2322

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

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District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Expands school breakfast program to all schools with 5% or more of students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the implementation of school breakfast
2 programs and supplementing chapter 33 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. A public school operated by a local or regional school
9 district of the State in which 5% or more of the students enrolled in the
10 school on or before the last school day before October 16 of the
11 preceding school year were eligible for free or reduced price meals
12 under the federal School Lunch Program or the federal School
13 Breakfast Program, shall establish a school breakfast program in the
14 school.

15 The school district shall submit a plan for the establishment of
16 school breakfast programs for each school in the district for the initial
17 year, subject to the requirements of this section, that is in compliance
18 with and pursuant to the School Breakfast Program administered by
19 the State Department of Agriculture. The plan for each school shall be
20 submitted to the Department of Agriculture by the date required by
21 subsection b. of this section in a form and manner prescribed by the
22 Secretary of Agriculture.

23 b. (1) A school district shall submit a plan for all grades of each
24 school that has one or more of the grades pre-K through sixth grade
25 and for which a plan is required by subsection a. of this section on or
26 before November 1, 2018.

27 (2) A school district shall submit a plan for all grades of each
28 school that is not described in paragraph (1) of this subsection and for
29 which a plan is required by subsection a. of this section on or before
30 November 1, 2019.

31 c. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the
32 Department of Education, shall review each school breakfast plan
33 submitted pursuant to this section and make recommendations, if
34 necessary, on how the school breakfast program can operate within the
35 limits of the federal and State reimbursement rates for the federal
36 School Breakfast Program.

37 d. The Department of Agriculture shall notify each school district
38 that submits a school breakfast plan pursuant to this section of the
39 completion of the department's review and any recommended changes
40 to the plan, within three months of the receipt of the plan, but no later
41 than the February 1 following the date required for submission of the
42 plan pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

43 e. A school district subject to the requirements of this section
44 shall establish a school breakfast program in each of its schools, based
45 on the plan submitted by the school district to the Department of
46 Agriculture, by September 1, 2019 for schools for which plans are
47 required to be submitted by paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this
48 section and by September 1, 2020 for schools for which plans are

1 required to be submitted by paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this
2 section.

3 f. (1) If a school district does not submit a school breakfast plan
4 to the Department of Agriculture pursuant to subsection a. of this
5 section by the date required by subsection b. of this section, it shall
6 establish a school breakfast program in each of its schools in which a
7 program is required pursuant to subsection a. of this section based on a
8 model plan provided by the department.

9 (2) The model plan shall include recommendations on how the
10 school breakfast program can operate within the limits of the federal
11 and State reimbursement rates for the federal School Breakfast
12 Program.

13 (3) The Department of Agriculture shall provide the model plan to
14 the school district no later than March 1, 2019 for schools for which
15 plans are required to be submitted by paragraph (1) of subsection b. of
16 this section and by March 1, 2020 for schools for which plans are
17 required to be submitted by paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this
18 section and the school district shall establish the school breakfast
19 program in each of its schools based on the plan by September 1, 2019
20 for schools for which plans are required to be submitted by paragraph
21 (1) of subsection b. of this section and by September 1, 2020 for
22 schools for which plans are required to be submitted by paragraph (2)
23 of subsection b. of this section.

24

25 2. The implementation of a school breakfast program under this
26 act shall be subject to the requirements of section 3 of P.L.2003,
27 c.4 (C.18A:33-11).

28

29 3. a. The Department of Agriculture may grant a one-year waiver
30 of the requirements of this act to a school in a school district subject to
31 the requirements of this act that lacks the staff, facilities or equipment
32 to offer a school breakfast program, or the means to finance the hiring
33 or acquisition of such staff, facilities or equipment, if the district
34 submits a school breakfast plan to the department pursuant to the
35 requirements of section 1 of this act and requests a waiver for the
36 specific school.

37 b. A school district that requests a waiver pursuant to this section
38 shall provide such information as the Department of Agriculture shall
39 specify pursuant to regulation to justify the request. The information
40 shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the specific
41 impediments to implementing the program, the specific actions that
42 will be taken to remove those impediments, and the specific steps
43 required to successfully implement the program in the following
44 school year.

45

46 4. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the
47 Department of Education, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant

1 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
2 seq.), which are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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4 5. The State shall appropriate to the Department of Agriculture in
5 each fiscal year the funds necessary to provide the State share for
6 school breakfast programs established under the provisions of this act.

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8 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill requires a public school operated by a local or regional
14 school district of the State in which 5% or more of the students
15 enrolled in the school on or before the last school day before October
16 16 of the preceding school year were eligible for free or reduced price
17 meals under the federal School Lunch Program or the federal School
18 Breakfast Program to establish a school breakfast program in the
19 school. Under the current statutes, a school with 5% or more of those
20 eligible students must have a school lunch program, and a school with
21 20% or more of those eligible students must have a school breakfast
22 program.

23 The new requirements are modeled on the existing requirements
24 and mandate that the program be first established in grades pre-K
25 through 6 by September 1, 2019, and in all other grades by September
26 1, 2020. Plans for the initial program must be submitted to the
27 Department of Agriculture for approval. If a plan is not submitted by
28 the date specified in the bill, a school district must establish a program
29 based on a model plan provided by the department. The bill permits
30 the Department of Agriculture to grant a one-year waiver to a school
31 district under certain conditions.

32 An appropriation to the Department of Agriculture by the State
33 each fiscal year is required in order to provide the State share for the
34 school breakfast programs established under the bill.