SENATE, No. 1027

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)
Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Directs Department of Agriculture in consultation with DOE to establish online applications for National School Lunch Program and school breakfast programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2020)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. If a school district or nonprofit nonpublic school currently provides an Internet-based school meal application for enrollment in

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.

the National School Lunch Program or in a school breakfast program, the school district or nonprofit nonpublic school shall have one year from the date of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this act) to switch to the Internet-based school meal application developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

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

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would require the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop and make available to each school district and nonpublic school participating in the National School Lunch Program or in a school breakfast program, an Internet-based online school meal application for eligible students to participate in these programs. Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or in a school breakfast program would be encouraged to make the online school meal application available. A participating school district or nonpublic school that implements the online school meal application would also be required to continue to make available paper applications.