

1 S.100

2 Senators Starr, Collamore, Parent, Pearson, and Pollina move that the report
3 of the Committee on Appropriations be amended by striking out all after the
4 enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

5 * * * Title * * *

6 Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

7 This act may be cited as the “Universal School Breakfast and Creation of
8 the Task Force on Universal School Lunch Act.”

9 * * * Purpose * * *

10 Sec. 2. PURPOSE

11 The purpose of this act is to:

12 (1) provide universal school breakfast for all public school students at
13 no cost to the students or their families with funding provided to school
14 districts from the Education Fund; and

15 (2) establish a task force to advise the General Assembly on how, not
16 later than the 2026–2027 school year, to achieve the goal of providing
17 universal school lunch for all public school students at no cost to the students
18 or their families, thereby making school food programs universally available to
19 all public school students at no cost to the students or their families.

* * * Statutory Changes * * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. chapter 27, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

Subchapter 2. School Food Programs

§ 1261a. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Food programs” means provision of food to persons under programs meeting standards for assistance under the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. and ~~in~~ the Child Nutrition Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1779 et seq., each as amended.

(2) “School board” means the governing body of a school district responsible for the administration of a public school.

(3) “Independent school board” means a governing body responsible for the administration of a nonprofit independent school exempt from ~~United States~~ U.S. income taxes.

§ 1262a. AWARD OF GRANTS

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(c)(1) On a quarterly basis, from State funds appropriated to the Agency for this ~~subsection~~ subdivision, the Agency shall award to each supervisory union, independent school board, and approved education program as described in subsection (a) of this section a sum equal to the amount that would have been the student share of the cost of all breakfasts and lunches actually provided in

1 the district during the previous quarter to students eligible for a reduced-price
2 breakfast under the federal school breakfast program and students eligible for a
3 reduced-price lunch under the federal school lunch program.

4 (2)(A) From State funds appropriated to the Agency for this subdivision
5 (2), the Agency shall reimburse each school district that made available school
6 breakfast to students at no charge under subdivision 1264(a)(1)(B) of this title
7 for the cost of each meal actually provided in the district during the previous
8 quarter that qualifies as a paid breakfast under the federal school breakfast
9 program.

10 (B) The reimbursement amount shall be a sum equal to the federal
11 reimbursement rate for a free school breakfast less the federal reimbursement
12 rate for a paid school breakfast, using rates identified annually by the Agency
13 of Education from payment levels established annually by the U.S. Department
14 of Agriculture. These rates shall include performance-based cash
15 reimbursement as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

16 * * *

17 § 1264. FOOD PROGRAM

18 (a)(1)(A) Each school board operating a public school shall cause to
19 operate within ~~the school district~~ each school in the school district a food
20 program that makes available a school lunch, as provided in the National
21 School Lunch Act as amended, and a school breakfast, as provided in the

1 National Child Nutrition Act as amended, to each attending student who
2 qualifies for those meals under these Acts every school day. School districts
3 shall maximize access to federal funds for the cost of the school breakfast and
4 lunch program under the Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2, or
5 other provisions under these Acts.

6 (B) In addition, each school board operating a public school shall
7 cause to operate within each school in the school district the same school
8 breakfast program made available to students who qualify for those meals
9 under the National Child Nutrition Act, as amended, for each attending student
10 every school day at no charge.

11 (C) In operating its school breakfast program, a school district shall
12 seek to achieve the highest level of student participation, which may include
13 any or all of the following:

14 (i) providing breakfast meals that can be picked up by students;

15 (ii) making breakfast available to students in classrooms after the
16 start of the school day; and

17 (iii) collaborating with the school's wellness community advisory
18 council, as established under subsection 136(e) of this title, in planning school
19 meals.

20 (D) A school district shall count time spent by students consuming
21 school meals during class as instructional time.

* * *

(d) It is a goal of the State that by the year ~~2022~~ 2023 school boards operating a school lunch, breakfast, or summer meals program shall purchase at least 20 percent of all food for those programs from local producers.

(e)(1) On or before December 31, 2020 and annually thereafter, a school board operating a school lunch, breakfast, or summer meals program shall submit to the Agency of Education an estimate of the percentage of the cost of locally produced foods that were purchased by the school board for those programs that were locally produced foods during the one-year period ending on June 30 of that year.

* * *

§ 1265. ~~EXEMPTION; PUBLIC DISCUSSION~~

~~(a) The school board of a public school district that wishes to be exempt from the provisions of section 1264 of this title may vote at a meeting warned and held for that purpose to exempt itself from the requirement to offer either the school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or both, for a period of one year.~~

~~(b) If a public school is exempt from offering a breakfast or lunch program, its school board shall conduct a discussion annually on whether to continue the exemption. The pending discussion shall be included on the agenda at a regular or special school board meeting publicly noticed in accordance with~~

1 ~~1 V.S.A. § 312(c), and citizens shall be provided an opportunity to participate~~
2 ~~in the discussion. The school board shall send a copy of the notice to the~~
3 ~~Secretary and to the superintendent of the supervisory union at least ten days~~
4 ~~prior to the meeting. Following the discussion, the school board shall vote on~~
5 ~~whether to continue the exemption for one additional year.~~

6 ~~(c) On or before the first day of November prior to the date on which an~~
7 ~~exemption voted under this section is due to expire, the Secretary shall notify~~
8 ~~the boards of the affected school district and supervisory union in writing that~~
9 ~~the exemption will expire.~~

10 ~~(d) Following a meeting held pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the~~
11 ~~school board shall send a copy of the agenda and minutes to the Secretary and~~
12 ~~the superintendent of the supervisory union.~~

13 ~~(e) The Secretary may grant a supervisory union or a school district a~~
14 ~~waiver from duties required of it under this subchapter upon a demonstration~~
15 ~~that the duties would be performed more efficiently and effectively in another~~
16 ~~manner. [Repealed.]~~

17 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

18 § 4025. EDUCATION FUND

19 * * *

20 (b) Monies in the Education Fund shall be used for the following:

21 * * *

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Sec. 5. APPROPRIATION; SCHOOL MEALS

Sec. 6. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; CONSULTATION; REPORT

Sec. 7. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; STAFFING

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1 programs. The position established in this section shall be transferred and
2 converted from an existing vacant position in the Executive Branch of State
3 government. There is appropriated to the Agency of Education from the
4 General Fund for fiscal year 2022 the amount of \$100,000.00 for salary,
5 benefits, and operating expenses.

6 Sec. 8. TASK FORCE ON UNIVERSAL SCHOOL LUNCH; REPORT

7 (a) Creation. There is created the Task Force on Universal School Lunch.
8 The Task Force shall make recommendations on how, not later than the 2026–
9 2027 school year, to achieve the goal of providing universal school lunch for
10 all public school students at no cost to the students or their families.

11 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the:

12 (1) Secretary of Education or designee;

13 (2) Secretary of Human Services or designee; and

14 (3) Secretary of Agriculture or designee.

15 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall make recommendations on
16 how, not later than the 2026–2027 school year, to achieve the goal of providing
17 universal school lunch for all public school students at no cost to the students
18 or their families and shall perform the following tasks:

19 (1) recommend funding sources for universal school lunch;

20 (2) recommend what data should be collected by local education
21 agencies, school districts, and schools to qualify for federal funds based on

1 student poverty, the means by which the data should be collected, the
2 frequency of collection, and how this data should be reported to the Agency of
3 Education and the frequency of this reporting;

4 (3) consider how other states offer and fund universal school meals at no
5 cost to students or their families; and

6 (4) meet with Vermont's federal delegation to discuss what changes
7 could be made to federal law and regulations to more readily facilitate
8 universal school meals.

9 (d) Collaboration. In performing its duties under this section, the Task
10 Force shall collaborate with Hunger Free Vermont, the Vermont
11 Superintendents Association, the Vermont School Boards Association, the
12 Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators, the Vermont
13 Principals' Association, and the Vermont-National Education Association.

14 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2022, the Task Force shall submit a
15 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on
16 Appropriations, the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and the
17 Senate Committee on Agriculture with its findings and any recommendations
18 for legislative action.

19 (f) Meetings.

20 (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Task
21 Force to occur on or before August 1, 2021.

