

2024 -- S 2046

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LC003654  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FEDERAL AID

Introduced By: Senators Acosta, Cano, Kallman, DiMario, Lawson, Mack, Gu, Quezada,  
Bell, and Euer

Date Introduced: January 12, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 16-8-10 and 16-8-10.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-8 entitled  
2 "Federal Aid [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" are hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4           **16-8-10. Mandatory school lunch programs.**

5           All public elementary and secondary schools shall be required to make [breakfast and](#) type  
6 A lunches available to students attending those schools in accordance with rules and regulations  
7 adopted from time to time by the department of elementary and secondary education. ~~To the extent~~  
8 ~~that federal, state, and other funds are available, free and reduced price~~ [Free breakfast and](#) type A  
9 lunches shall be provided to all students ~~from families that meet the current specific criteria~~  
10 ~~established by federal and state regulations.~~ The requirement that [free breakfast and](#) type A lunches  
11 be provided shall apply to locally managed school [breakfast and](#) lunch programs, and school  
12 [breakfast and](#) lunch programs administered directly by the department of elementary and secondary  
13 education or by any other public agency whether using school facilities or a commercial catering  
14 service. The department of elementary and secondary education is further authorized to expand the  
15 school [breakfast and](#) lunch ~~program programs~~ ~~to the extent that federal, state, and/or local funds~~  
16 ~~are available~~ by the utilization of one or more food preparation centers for delivery to participating  
17 schools for the purpose of providing meals to students on a more economical basis than could be  
18 provided by a community acting individually.

19           **16-8-10.1. Mandatory school breakfast programs.**

1           (a) All public schools shall make a [free](#) breakfast program available to students attending  
2 the school, [in compliance with the provision of § 16-8-10](#). The breakfast meal shall meet any rules  
3 and regulations that are adopted by the commissioner; [provided that no student or the student's](#)  
4 [family shall be charged for the breakfast](#).

5           (b) The state of Rhode Island shall provide school districts a per breakfast subsidy for each  
6 breakfast served to students. The general assembly shall annually appropriate some sum and  
7 distribute it based on each district's proportion of the number of breakfasts served in the prior  
8 school year relative to the statewide total in the same year. This subsidy shall augment the nonprofit  
9 school food service account and be used for expenses incurred in providing nutritious breakfast  
10 meals to students.

11           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would require free breakfast and lunches to be provided for all elementary and
- 2 secondary students attending public schools.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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