

2023 -- S 0071

LC001234

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FEDERAL AID

Introduced By: Senators Acosta, Lawson, Valverde, Murray, Quezada, Kallman,
Pearson, Zurier, Gallo, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: February 01, 2023

Referred To: Senate Education

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~~ Mandatory free school breakfast and**
5 **lunch programs.**

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

1 **16-8-10.1. Mandatory school breakfast programs.**

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

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

12 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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