



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2017

H.P. 1347

House of Representatives, December 5, 2025

An Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition

Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

R. B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A,
3 §44, is amended to read:

4 **§6601-A. Free or reduced-price school meals; Internet-based school meal
5 applications**

6 The department ~~shall~~ may contract for the development and implementation of an
7 Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch
8 Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210 and the School Breakfast Program
9 under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 220 or otherwise make available to public
10 schools an Internet-based application for those programs. The department ~~shall~~ may make
11 available to public schools ~~the~~ an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals
12 developed under this section on ~~the~~ the department's ~~a~~ publicly accessible website. The
13 department shall make ~~the~~ any Internet-based application developed pursuant to this section
14 in an understandable and uniform format and, to the maximum extent practicable, in a
15 language that parents and legal guardians can understand. A public school may make ~~the~~
16 an Internet-based application available for school meal applications on the public school's
17 publicly accessible website. All public schools shall continue to distribute paper
18 applications for school meals to all students. A public school is ~~solely~~ responsible for
19 processing that school's online applications. Data submitted through ~~the~~ an Internet-based
20 application may not be visible to the department and must be transmitted directly to the
21 applicable public school. All public schools shall accept data submitted through ~~the~~ an
22 Internet-based application.

23 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §1, is
24 amended to read:

25 F. Except as provided under paragraph G, a school administrative unit with a public
26 school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch
27 during the preceding school year shall operate an alternative breakfast delivery service
28 that provides breakfast after the start of the school day and before any lunch period in
29 the school begins for students at that public school. ~~A school administrative unit with~~
30 ~~a public school in which at least 70% of students who are eligible for free and~~
31 ~~reduced price meals under paragraph A participate in the breakfast program under~~
32 ~~paragraph B is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph~~.

33 The department shall publish annually, by July 1, 2020 and every July 1st thereafter,
34 on its publicly accessible website, information regarding schools required to comply
35 with and schools exempt from this paragraph in the preceding school year, including,
36 but not limited to, the name of the school, any alternative breakfast delivery service
37 operated, free and reduced-price breakfast participation rate and the financial impact
38 of the program on the school nutrition budget.

39 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶G**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §2, is
40 amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph.

41 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 11**, as amended, is repealed.

SUMMARY

This bill amends provisions of education law governing applications for free or reduced-price school meals by removing the requirement that the Department of Education contract for the development and implementation of an Internet-based application for such school meals, instead simply permitting the department to take these actions. It also changes requirements for making the application available on the department's publicly accessible website and instead permits the department to make the application available on a publicly accessible website. It also removes the requirement that a public school is solely responsible for processing that school's online applications.

The bill modifies provisions governing alternative breakfast delivery service in schools by removing an exemption applying to certain school administrative units and removing the requirement that the department adopt rules related to the alternative breakfast delivery service, including rules establishing procedures to track health and academic outcomes of students and schools that participate in the service and schools' annual increase in participation in the service.

The bill repeals a provision of education law governing access to food, collection of student meal debt and use of food as discipline in schools.