

SENATE, No. 1222

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

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: 2/10/2022)

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

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*

8
9 1. Section 3 of P.L.2003, c.4 (C.18A:33-11) is amended to read as
10 follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 c. If a school district or nonprofit nonpublic school currently
45 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.

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

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

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11 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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