

SENATE, No. 1928

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOA to engage in public education campaign to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of, and the education of parents
 2 and guardians regarding, school meals programs that are
 3 operating, or that are subject to expansion, in the State, and
 4 amending P.L.2019, c.307.

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

8
 9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.307 (C.18A:33-27.1) is amended to
 10 read as follows:

11 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the
 12 Department of Education, shall:

13 (1) develop and implement a public education campaign to
 14 educate parents and guardians in the State about the various school
 15 meals programs that are available for students in New Jersey, and
 16 the availability of free and reduced price meals, under such
 17 programs, for students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility
 18 criteria; and

19 (2) develop promotional [material] materials for the ["School
 20 Meal Program"] State's school meals programs, and provide such
 21 promotional materials to every school district [with the "School
 22 Meal Program" promotional material, which shall] in the State, for
 23 distribution thereby to the parents and guardians of students who
 24 are enrolled at schools in the district. The promotional materials
 25 developed pursuant to this paragraph shall include, but need not be
 26 limited to, pamphlets, presentation [material] materials, webinars,
 27 and sample letters that schools may send to parents and guardians.

28 b. The ["School Meal Program"] public education campaign
 29 and promotional [material] materials developed under subsection a.
 30 of this section shall:

31 (1) highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and
 32 importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal
 33 School Breakfast Program, [and] the federal Summer Food Service
 34 Program [,] and other similar summer meals programs, as well as
 35 the State's breakfast after the bell programs, established pursuant to
 36 section 1 of P.L.2014, c.66 (C.18A:33-11.1) or section 2 of
 37 P.L.2018, c.25 (C.18A:33-11.3), the State's emergency meals
 38 distribution program, established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2020,
 39 c.6 (C.18A:33-27.2), and any new school meals programs that are
 40 implemented in the State after the effective date of
 41 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

42 (2) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to
 43 all children for their general health and [their] success in school;

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 19 pandemic), and any new school meals programs that are
2 implemented in the State after the bill's effective date;
3 (2) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to
4 all children for their general health and success in school;
5 (3) emphasize the ability of eligible students to obtain free or
6 reduced price meals under the State's school meals programs, and
7 inform parents and guardians about the various ways in which a
8 student may be determined to be categorically eligible for free
9 meals under these programs, and the federal and State-level income-
10 based criteria that must be satisfied in order for a student to obtain
11 free or reduced price school meals, under these programs, on the
12 basis of annual household income;
13 (4) highlight and describe the application and determination
14 processes that are used, by schools and school districts, to certify
15 students for free or reduced price school meals;
16 (5) highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to
17 students and families in association with a student's subsidized or
18 unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and
19 (6) inform parents and guardians about the nature and extent of
20 any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing school
21 meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to, the nature
22 and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the
23 categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price