

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 594

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREEN

SCHOOLS/FOOD PROGRAMS: Creates and provides for the Free School Breakfast Program to be administered by the state Department of Education

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:192(C), to create a Free School Breakfast Program for the distribution of  
3 free breakfasts to certain public school students; to require the state Department of  
4 Education to administer the program; to provide for funding; to provide definitions;  
5 to provide relative to implementation; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:192(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §192. Lunches and breakfasts; duty to furnish

9 \* \* \*

10 C.(1)(a) There is hereby created within the state Department of Education  
11 the Free School Breakfast Program.

12 (b) For each governing authority of a school nutrition program that meets the  
13 requirements of the program as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the  
14 department shall provide funding for each reimbursable school breakfast that is  
15 served to a student, up to one breakfast per student per school day. The  
16 reimbursement amount for each governing authority shall be the difference between  
17 the amount paid by the United States Department of Agriculture and the free rate as  
18 set annually by the United States Secretary of Agriculture under 42 U.S.C. 1759a.

19 (c) The department may establish a payment schedule.

1           (2) To receive funding from the department for the program, a governing  
2 authority shall:

3           (a) Participate in the federal School Breakfast Program.

4           (b) Provide reimbursable breakfasts, pursuant to 7 CFR 210.10, at no cost  
5 to all students each school day for any school breakfast program operated by the  
6 governing authority.

7           (c) Maximize access to federal funds for the cost of school breakfast  
8 programs by adopting the United States Department of Agriculture's Community  
9 Eligibility Provision or any federal provision that results in the maximum possible  
10 amount of federal funding for meals served in that program. Each governing  
11 authority that has an identified student percentage greater than or equal to the  
12 minimum requirement to be eligible to participate in the Community Eligibility  
13 Provision shall participate in the subsequent school year and through the duration of  
14 the Community Eligibility Provision's four-year cycle. To the extent practicable, the  
15 governing authority shall group schools for purposes of maximizing the number of  
16 schools eligible to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision.

17           (d) Adopt and implement policies that require parents or legal guardians to  
18 submit family income information in a manner prescribed by the department and that  
19 maximizes determinations of student eligibility for federal free or reduced cost meal  
20 reimbursement rates and eligibility for the Community Eligibility Provision.

21           (e) Maximize student participation, which may include providing breakfasts  
22 that can be picked up, or making breakfasts available in classrooms after the start of  
23 the school day.

24           (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall  
25 promulgate rules as necessary for the implementation of this Subsection.

26           (4) The department shall convene a group of stakeholders to examine the  
27 potential impact of offering statewide free school meals through other state funded  
28 programs.

