

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 590

Representatives Brennan, Dobos

Cosponsors: Representatives McNally, Pizzulli, Russo

A BILL

To enact section 3333.47 of the Revised Code to 1
enact the Hunger-Free Campus Act to establish 2
the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program and 3
designation and to make an appropriation. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3333.47 of the Revised Code be 5
enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 3333.47. (A) As used in this section, "qualifying 7
institution" means either of the following: 8

(1) A state institution of higher education, as defined in 9
section 3345.011 of the Revised Code; 10

(2) A private nonprofit institution of higher education 11
that holds a certificate of authorization pursuant to Chapter 12
1713. of the Revised Code. 13

(B) (1) The chancellor of higher education shall establish 14
and administer the hunger-free campus grant program and 15
designation. Under the program, the chancellor shall award 16
grants to qualifying institutions, prioritizing institutions 17

with higher percentages of Pell grant-eligible students 18
enrolled. Grants shall be used by institutions to support or 19
leverage existing basic needs infrastructure, maximize federal 20
programs, build strategic partnerships at the local, state, and 21
national levels to address food insecurity among students, and 22
to raise awareness on resources available to address basic food 23
needs. 24

(2) The chancellor shall develop an application process 25
for the grant program. A qualifying institution is eligible for 26
an initial hunger-free campus grant if it demonstrates a 27
commitment to basic needs infrastructure and intends to use 28
funds to pursue the hunger-free campus designation. A qualifying 29
institution with an existing hunger-free campus designation is 30
eligible to apply for additional hunger-free campus grants. 31

(3) The chancellor shall develop a method to determine the 32
amount of a grant the chancellor awards to an institution. The 33
chancellor shall develop a tiered system for awards that permits 34
institutions with existing hunger-free campus designations to 35
receive larger grants. 36

(4) Each institution that receives a grant under the 37
hunger-free campus grant program shall report to the chancellor 38
information on how the grant is used and its effects on food 39
security on the institution's campus for each academic year in 40
which the institution receives the grant. If an institution has 41
not received a hunger-free campus designation, the institution 42
shall report its progress toward qualifying for that 43
designation. 44

(C) The chancellor of higher education shall develop an 45
application process for a qualifying institution to receive a 46
hunger-free campus designation. The chancellor shall award a 47

hunger-free campus designation to each qualifying institution 48
that the chancellor determines satisfies both of the following 49
conditions: 50

(1) The institution does either of the following: 51

(a) Provides free meals to students who have demonstrated 52
food insecurity or establishes campus emergency funds for such 53
students. Institutions may establish a definition or method by 54
which to identify students who have demonstrated food insecurity 55
but shall include students who have an expected family 56
contribution of zero dollars and students who are work-study 57
eligible, as determined by the free application for federal 58
student aid. Free meals or funds may be provided through any of 59
the following methods: 60

(i) Establishing a student meal plan credit donation 61
program through which any enrolled student who has purchased a 62
meal plan may donate any meal on such plan to the program, and 63
any enrolled student who has demonstrated food insecurity may 64
apply to the program to redeem a donated meal at a meal-plan 65
eligible on-campus dining location in accordance with applicable 66
food safety regulations; 67

(ii) Designating an amount of the institution's funds for 68
free meal vouchers or gift cards for students who have 69
demonstrated food insecurity that may be used at campus stores, 70
eateries, or local establishments; 71

(iii) Establishing a campus emergency fund to support 72
students with emergency expenses, including those associated 73
with food, shelter, utilities, and childcare. An institution 74
shall limit barriers to access those funds. 75

(b) Assists students with accessing food pantries or 76

charitable food distributions by establishing an on-campus food 77
pantry or charitable distribution. All food provided from an on- 78
campus food pantry or charitable distribution shall be free to 79
all students. An institution shall not require a student to 80
demonstrate need to access the food pantry or distribution 81
service. An institution may require an individual to show a 82
valid student identification card to access food from an on- 83
campus food pantry or charitable distribution. An on-campus food 84
pantry shall include at least one staffed physical food pantry 85
on campus located in a safe and secure environment and shall 86
include measures to ensure that students may receive food 87
without facing stigma. An institution shall provide notice of 88
the food pantry or charitable distribution on the institution's 89
web site, including hours of operation and updated contact 90
information for staff members involved in operating the food 91
pantry or charitable distribution and information on other 92
efforts to address hunger at the institution. 93

(2) The institution does at least three of the following: 94

(a) Ensures that students have access to accurate and 95
current information about the supplemental nutrition assistance 96
program, other available food assistance programs, and programs 97
that support basic needs security, including information on 98
program eligibility, application processes, and how to use 99
program benefits. An institution may satisfy this condition by 100
doing any of the following: 101

(i) Including information on food assistance and basic 102
needs security programs in all financial aid information; 103

(ii) Including information on food assistance and basic 104
needs security programs in new student orientation materials; 105

<u>(iii) Including information on food assistance and basic needs security programs in each course syllabus;</u>	106
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<u>(iv) Posting information on food assistance and basic needs security programs in all on-campus housing locations.</u>	108
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<u>(b) Designates at least one on-campus employee who students may contact for information on the supplemental nutrition assistance program, other available food assistance programs, and programs that support basic needs security;</u>	110
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<u>(c) Notifies, on an individual basis, students who receive need-based financial aid of their potential eligibility to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program;</u>	114
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<u>(d) Conducts an anonymous, campus-wide survey assessing student food security at least once every two years;</u>	118
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<u>(e) Sponsors at least one event per academic semester to spread awareness about student hunger and provide information to students about services available on campus to alleviate student hunger.</u>	120
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<u>(D) A hunger-free campus designation under this section shall be for two years.</u>	124
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Section 2. (A) Not later than two years after the establishment of the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program under section 3333.47 of the Revised Code, the Chancellor of Higher Education shall prepare a report on the grant program that includes all of the following:	126
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(1) The number and amounts of grant awards under the program;	131
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(2) Examples of how students were supported by the program	133

and how the funding helped students continue their education; 134

(3) Examples of the impact of the grant program on 135
establishing additional hunger-free campuses at qualifying 136
institutions and reducing the number of students experiencing 137
food insecurity; 138

(4) Any recommendations regarding the establishment of an 139
annual appropriation for the grant program. 140

(B) The Chancellor shall submit the report to the Governor 141
and, in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code, the 142
General Assembly. 143

Section 3. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 144
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 145
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 146
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 147
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 148
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 149
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 150

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Section 4. 152

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A	BOR DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION			
B	General Revenue Fund			
C	GRF 235498	Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program	\$0	\$2,500,000

D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$2,500,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS	\$0	\$2,500,000

HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS GRANT PROGRAM 154

The foregoing appropriation item 235498, Hunger-Free 155
Campus Grant Program, shall be used by the Chancellor of Higher 156
Education to support the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program 157
pursuant to section 3333.47 of the Revised Code. 158

Section 5. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 159
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 160
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 161
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 162
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 163
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 164
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 165
applicable provisions of, H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly. 166

Section 6. This act shall be known as the Hunger-Free 167
Campus Act. 168