

167 Ensuring Student Access to Meals- An Act To Prevent Food Shaming in Maine's Public Schools

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 11

Requires a public school that provides free and reduced-price meals or other meals to students pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 223, subchapter 7 or otherwise provides to students meals eligible for reimbursement under a program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture to provide such a meal to a student who requests the meal and is otherwise eligible for the meal regardless of the student's inability to pay for the school meal or failure in the past to pay for school meals.

It prohibits a public school from punishing a student in certain ways solely because of the student's inability to pay for a meal or because of any payments due for previous meals.

It prohibits a public school from openly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a meal or who has payments due for previous meals.

It requires a public school to communicate about a student's meal debts directly to the parent or guardian of the student rather than to the student except that, if the student inquires about the student's meal debt, the school may answer the student's inquiry. A public school may ask a student to carry to the student's parent or guardian a letter regarding a student's meal debt.

Information will be available on our website:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/financial/unpaidmealcharges>

Effective date: 9/19/2019

Status: work as begun, FAQ has been developed, web pages created, and commissioner's office briefed.

454 An Act To Encourage the Purchase of Local Produce for Public Schools

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§12

This bill provides funds to the Department of Education to administer the Local Produce Fund, establishes one Education Specialist II position and provides a \$1 match for every \$3 expended by a school administrative unit for produce or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer, farmers' cooperative or local food hub in this State. It provides that the state match is up to a maximum of \$1,000 per school administrative unit in state fiscal year 2019-20 and up to \$1,500 per school administrative unit in state fiscal year 2020-21 and subsequent years. There was no funding with the passed bill, but funding is included in Maine DOE budget.

For more information: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/localfoods> our web page: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/financial/schoolmealpricing>

Effective date: 9/19/2019

Status: work as begun, position has been advertised and applications received. Preparing for interviews.

497 An Act Regarding the Providing of Human Food Waste to Swine Producers

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §1814-A, sub-§3-A

This bill specifies that an individual, organization or institution, including a public school, that donates food waste to a swine producer for use in swine feed is not required to verify that the swine producer has a license to feed garbage to swine.

Effective date: 9/19/2019

Status: communication flashes

541 Resolve, To Reduce Food Waste in Schools

This bill directs the Department of Education to develop a school food sharing policy to encourage schools and food banks to work together to collect whole and packaged school cafeteria surplus or leftover food and share it with the community.

Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to collaborate to revise and disseminate by January 1, 2020 to public school food service programs throughout the State the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's health inspection program guidance titled "Food Sharing Tables - Guidance for Schools."

This is currently being developed and modified. It will be posted on the web when completed.

Effective date: 9/19/2019

Status: work has begun, CDC has developed a new share table policy and it is being reviewed. Web page modification has been made and will continue.

701 An Act To Modernize the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A

This bill requires the department to contract for development, and make available to public schools a specific Internet-based application for the National School Lunch Program as well as for the School Breakfast Program. A public school that implements the Internet-based application process is required to continue to distribute paper applications for school meals to all students. More information will be shared soon and will be posted on our web page:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/studenteligibility>

This bill also provides funding for schools starting an Alternative Breakfast Delivery Service Program that provide breakfast after the start of the school day. A school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year qualifies for funding. The department is required to develop guidelines to allocate and disburse the funding to participating schools.

For more information: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/breakfast>

Effective date: 9/19/2019

Status: quote process has been started for the software and then purchase will be made. Guidance will be needed to request the permissions for software. We feel we can meet the 10/1 deadline date. Breakfast after the bell guidance is being drafted for release late August.

1159 Resolve, To End Hunger in Maine by 2030

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation and collaboration with interested parties and stakeholders, to collaborate with the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to eliminate hunger in the State by 2030. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to submit an initial design for the plan by February 10, 2020 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which may submit legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Effective date 9/19/2019

Status: no activity at this point

359 An Act To Address Student Hunger with a "Breakfast after the Bell" Program

Bill Carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular sessions. But the funding assistance was included in the LD 701 amendment. All though this bill did not pass this is an excellent bill and all schools should consider this. Schools exceeding 50% free and reduced really should consider this strongly. Resource material is being developed. We are working with Full Plates Full Potential and Share of Strength to make this opportunity available to all students.

549 An Act To Promote Academic Achievement through Hunger Relief for Maine Children

Died on adjournment June 20, 2019 but was included in the DOE budget which provides \$.40 for reduced lunches in public schools. This would mean reduced students eat at no charge SY 2020 and SY 2021. Schools would still report the number of reduced meals served to receive Federal reimbursement. Programing to NEO is being made. This will start with the meals claimed in September.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

577 An Act To Increase Access to Nutritious Foods in Schools by Implementing an After-school Food Program for At-risk Students

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶D

This bill requires district with at least one public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year, to participate in the Federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to serve at-risk students who attend after-school programming. The district has an option to opt out if it is proven that it is not a good opportunity for their children. For more information

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/cacfp/atrisk>

Effective date 9/19/2019

Status: we are just beginning the work on this bill.