



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 41**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6717

*House of Representatives, March 9, 2023*

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "school food service employee" means an individual employed  
3 by or pursuant to a contract with a local or regional board of education  
4 who engages in the preparation or service of meals for student  
5 consumption in a school.

6 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Education shall  
7 (1) develop guidelines and best practices for school food service  
8 employees to interact and converse with students in ways that are  
9 respectful and sensitive and support positive associations with food,  
10 and (2) post such guidelines and best practices on the Department of  
11 Education's Internet web site. The Department of Education shall  
12 update such guidelines and best practices as it deems necessary.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the school year commencing

14 July 1, 2024, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional  
 15 board of education shall annually provide a copy of the guidelines and  
 16 best practices described in section 1 of this act to each school food service  
 17 employee employed by or pursuant to a contract with such board who  
 18 has regular, direct contact with students.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a), "school meals" was changed to "meals" for clarity.

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact. It requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop guidelines for school food service workers to interact with students in ways that are respectful and support positive associations with food. Additionally, the guidelines must be annually distributed to food service employees by local and regional boards of education beginning in FY 25. It is anticipated SDE and boards of education can meet the bill's provisions within existing resources.

The United States Department of Agriculture provides guidance on professional standards for school food service workers.<sup>1</sup>

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/professional-standards>

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6717**

***AN ACT CONCERNING GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEES.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State Department of Education, by January 1, 2024, to develop guidelines and best practices for school food service employees to interact and converse with students in ways that are respectful and sensitive and support positive associations with food. The department must post the guidelines and best practices on its website and update them as it deems necessary.

The bill also requires each local and regional board of education, starting with the 2024 school year, to annually provide a copy of the guidelines and best practices to school food service employees who have regular, direct contact with students.

Under the bill, a “school food service employee” is someone employed by or contracted with a local or regional board of education who prepares or serves meals for students in a school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (02/28/2023)