



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 929

LCO No. 3267



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT EXPANDING SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE
FREE SCHOOL MEALS TO ALL STUDENTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) [Any] Each local [or] and regional board of education [may] shall
4 establish and operate a school lunch program for public school
5 children, may operate lunch services for its employees, may establish
6 and operate a school breakfast program, as provided under federal
7 laws governing said programs, or may establish and operate such
8 other child feeding programs as it deems necessary. [Charges] No
9 board may charge for such school lunches, school breakfasts or other
10 such child feeding. [may be fixed by such boards and shall not exceed
11 the cost of food, wages and other expenses directly incurred in
12 providing such services.] When such [services] programs are offered, a
13 board shall provide free school lunches, school breakfasts or other such
14 child feeding to [children whose economic needs require such action
15 under the standards promulgated by said federal laws] all students.
16 Such board is authorized to purchase equipment and supplies that are

17 necessary, to employ the necessary personnel, to utilize the services of
18 volunteers and to receive and expend any funds and receive and use
19 any equipment and supplies which may become available to carry out
20 the provisions of this section. Any town board of education may vote
21 to designate any volunteer organization within the town to provide a
22 school lunch program, school breakfast program or other child feeding
23 program in accordance with the provisions of this section.

24 [(b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school
25 year thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall include in
26 any policy or procedure for the collection of unpaid charges for school
27 lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding applicable to employees and
28 third-party vendors of such school lunches, breakfasts or such feeding
29 (1) a prohibition on publicly identifying or shaming a child for any
30 such unpaid charges, including, but not limited to, delaying or
31 refusing to serve a meal to such child, designating a specific meal
32 option for such child or otherwise taking any disciplinary action
33 against such child, (2) a declaration of the right for any child to
34 purchase a meal, which meal may exclude any a la carte items or be
35 limited to one meal for any school lunch, breakfast or other such
36 feeding, and (3) a procedure for communicating with the parent or
37 legal guardian of a child for the purpose of collecting such unpaid
38 charges. Such communication shall include, but not be limited to, (A)
39 information regarding local food pantries, (B) applications for the
40 school district's program for free or reduced priced meals and for the
41 supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the
42 Department of Social Services, and (C) a link to the Internet web site
43 maintained by the town for such school district listing any community
44 services available to the residents of such town. In the event the
45 unpaid charges for school lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding
46 due from any parent or legal guardian are equal to or more than the
47 cost of thirty meals, the local or regional board of education shall refer
48 such parent or legal guardian to the local homeless education liaison
49 designated by such board, pursuant to Subtitle B of Title VII of the
50 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as

51 amended from time to time.]

52 [(c)] (b) A local or regional board of education may accept gifts,
53 donations or grants from any public or private sources for the purpose
54 of [paying off any unpaid charges for] providing such school lunches,
55 school breakfasts or other such child feeding.

56 Sec. 2. Section 10-215b of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

58 (a) The State Board of Education [is authorized to expend in each
59 fiscal year, within available appropriations,] shall annually provide
60 grants to local and regional boards of education, the Technical
61 Education and Career System and the governing authority of a state
62 charter school, interdistrict magnet school or endowed academy
63 approved pursuant to section 10-34 that participates in the National
64 School Lunch Program and operates a school lunch program, school
65 breakfast program or other child feeding program pursuant to section
66 10-215, as amended by this act, provided the state board expends in
67 each fiscal year an amount equal to (1) the money required pursuant to
68 the matching requirements of said federal laws and shall disburse the
69 same in accordance with said laws, and (2) at least ten cents per lunch
70 served in the prior school year in accordance with said laws. [by any
71 local or regional board of education, the Technical Education and
72 Career System or governing authority of a state charter school,
73 interdistrict magnet school or endowed academy approved pursuant
74 to section 10-34 that participates in the National School Lunch Program
75 and certifies] Each such board, system and governing authority shall
76 certify, pursuant to section 10-215f, that the nutrition standards
77 established by the Department of Education, pursuant to section 10-
78 215e, [shall be] have been met.

79 (b) The State Board of Education shall prescribe the manner and
80 time of application by such board of education, the Technical
81 Education and Career System, such governing authority or controlling
82 authority of the nonpublic schools for such funds, provided such

83 application shall include the certification that any funds received
84 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be used for the program
85 approved. The State Board of Education shall determine the eligibility
86 of the applicant to receive such grants pursuant to regulations
87 provided in subsection (c) of this section and shall certify to the
88 Comptroller the amount of the grant for which the board of education,
89 the Technical Education and Career System, the governing authority or
90 the controlling authority of a nonpublic school is eligible. Upon receipt
91 of such certification, the Comptroller shall draw an order on the
92 Treasurer in the amount, at the time and to the payee so certified.

93 (c) The State Board of Education may adopt such regulations as may
94 be necessary in implementing sections 10-215 to 10-215b, inclusive, as
95 amended by this act.

96 (d) The Commissioner of Education shall establish a procedure for
97 monitoring compliance by boards of education, the Technical
98 Education and Career System, or governing authorities with
99 certifications submitted in accordance with section 10-215f and may
100 adjust grant amounts pursuant to [subdivision (2) of] subsection (a) of
101 this section based on failure to comply with [said] such certification.

102 (e) The Commissioner of Education may temporarily waive any
103 provision or modify any requirements of this section or section 10-215,
104 as amended by this act, 10-215a, 10-215e or 10-215f, in response to any
105 changes in federal law or waivers issued by the United States
106 Department of Agriculture, to ensure that local and regional boards of
107 education continue to receive the funds described in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10-215
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	10-215b

KID *Joint Favorable*