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**Food Security Amendments**  
2025 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Tyler Clancy**  
Senate Sponsor: Kirk A. Cullimore

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill establishes a program to provide lunch at no cost to an eligible student.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- provides certain students access to lunch at no charge;
- requires the State Board of Education to reimburse each local education agency (LEA) for certain reduced price lunches;
- prohibits an LEA from stigmatizing students who cannot afford meals;
- encourages an LEA to reduce food waste; and
- requires communications regarding a student's meal debt to be directed only to the student's parent.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53F-2-422**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53F-2-422** is enacted to read:

**53F-2-422 . School meal program.**

(1) As used in this section:

- 28 (a) "Education model health and wellness policy on nutrition" means state board policy  
29 emphasizing that an LEA promote efficient meal scheduling, provide adequate time  
30 for eating, and implement practices that help reduce food waste.
- 31 (b) "Eligible student" means a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 who  
32 qualifies for reduced-price meals based on household size and income levels under  
33 the National School Lunch Program.
- 34 (c) "National School Lunch Program" means the same as that term is defined in 7 C.F.R.  
35 Sec. 210.2.
- 36 (d) "Share table program" means a system in a school where a student may return  
37 unopened, uneaten food or beverages to a designated location for redistribution to  
38 other students.
- 39 (2) An LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program shall provide lunch to an  
40 eligible student on a school day at no charge.
- 41 (3) The state board:
- 42 (a) shall:
- 43 (i) subject to legislative appropriations, reimburse an LEA for each reimbursable  
44 lunch provided under this section in an amount equal to the difference between the  
45 federal reimbursement rates for a meal and a reduced-price meal, as determined  
46 annually by the United States Department of Agriculture;
- 47 (ii) establish a reimbursement system where the board provides a monthly  
48 reimbursement to an LEA that provides a meal under Subsection (2); and
- 49 (iii) accept private donations and grants for the purpose of funding the school meal  
50 program described in this section; and
- 51 (b) may provide guidance and support to a school implementing the food waste  
52 prevention strategies described in Subsection (6).
- 53 (4) An LEA may not:
- 54 (a) publicly identify or stigmatize a student unable to pay for a meal; or
- 55 (b) require a student to perform chores to pay for a meal unless the requirement applies  
56 equally to all students regardless of whether the student pays for the meal.
- 57 (5) An LEA shall direct communications regarding a student's meal debt only to the  
58 student's parent.
- 59 (6) An LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program shall consider, where  
60 feasible, reducing food waste by:
- 61 (a) following the education model health and wellness policy on nutrition; and

- 62           (b) establishing a share table program.
- 63           (7)(a) Notwithstanding Subsection (3)(a)(i), if appropriations are insufficient to fully
- 64           reimburse each LEA for the cost of a reimbursable lunch described in this section, the
- 65           state board shall distribute the available funds in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year
- 66           to each LEA on a pro rata basis, not exceeding the available funds.
- 67           (b) An LEA may ask the parent of an eligible student to cover the remaining cost of a
- 68           subsidized lunch under this section.

69           Section 2. **Effective Date.**

70           This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.