

Tyler Clancy proposes the following substitute bill:

Food Security Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Tyler Clancy

Senate Sponsor: Kirk A. Cullimore

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

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:

(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 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 the remaining cost of
68 a subsidized lunch under this section.

69 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

70 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.