

Amendment to SB 204-FN-A

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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3 1 New Paragraphs; Food and Nutrition Programs. Amend RSA 189:11-a by inserting after  
4 paragraph VIII the following new paragraphs:

5 IX. Each school board may vote to raise eligibility for free meals to 200 percent of the federal  
6 poverty level. Meals served to students who meet the federal income eligibility guidelines shall  
7 continue to be reimbursed in accordance with federal law and regulations. Meals not reimbursed in  
8 accordance with federal law and regulations shall be reimbursed by the state of New Hampshire at a  
9 rate that covers 50 percent of the difference between the federal rate for a free meal and a reduced-  
10 price meal, or the difference between a free meal and a paid meal. The remainder of the costs shall  
11 be covered by the local district.

12 X.(a) The department of education shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A requiring school  
13 districts that opt into the optional program pursuant to paragraph IX to offer both online and  
14 physical applications for free school meals.

15 (b) The department of education shall provide administrative or technical assistance to  
16 school districts establishing an online application for free or reduced-price school meals, and whose  
17 school meal programs are approved to operate through the United States Department of Agriculture.

18 (c) School districts eligible for administrative or technical assistance or funding under  
19 this section shall be those approved to operate federal school meal programs through the United  
20 States Department of Agriculture and accepted by the department of education to participate in this  
21 expansion of free and reduced lunch benefits.

22 2 Appropriation; Department of Education; Food and Nutrition Program.

23 I. The amount of \$107,000 is appropriated to the department of education for the biennium  
24 ending June 30, 2026, for administrative costs related to providing administrative or technical  
25 assistance to school districts establishing an online application for free or reduced-price school  
26 meals. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury  
27 not otherwise appropriated.

28 II. The amount of \$250,000 is appropriated to the department of education for the biennium  
29 ending June 30, 2026, for disbursement to school districts to be reimbursed at a 50 percent rate  
30 pursuant to RSA 189:11-a, X(a) and to purchase software related to the establishment of an online  
31 application for free or reduced-price school meals. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for  
32 said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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1           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes school boards to raise eligibility for free meals, requires the department of education to reimburse schools who raise eligibility, and provides an appropriation therefor.