

HB 646-FN-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0023

02/05

HOUSE BILL

646-FN-LOCAL

AN ACT requiring school districts to establish an online application for participation in the free and reduced price meal program.

SPONSORS: Rep. Telerski, Hills. 11; Rep. Seibert, Hills. 21; Rep. Levesque, Straf. 4; Rep. Weinstein, Rock. 10; Rep. Kluger, Hills. 6; Rep. M. Murray, Hills. 37; Sen. Long, Dist 20

COMMITTEE: Education Funding

ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of education to adopt rules to require school districts to offer online and physical free or reduced price school meals applications. It also requires the department to provide administrative and technical assistance to districts for this purpose and makes an appropriation therefor.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT requiring school districts to establish an online application for participation in the free and reduced price meal program.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Paragraph; Food and Nutrition Programs. Amend RSA 189:11-a by inserting after
2 paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

3 IX. The department of education shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A requiring school
4 districts to offer online and physical free or reduced price school meals applications. The department
5 of education shall provide any administrative or technical assistance to school districts establishing
6 an online application for free or reduced price school meals and whose school meal programs are
7 approved to operate through the United States Department of Agriculture. School districts eligible
8 for administrative or technical assistance or funding in these provisions shall be those approved to
9 operate federal school meal programs through the United States Department of Agriculture.

10 2 Appropriation; Department of Education. The sum of \$102,000 for the fiscal year ending June
11 30, 2026 and the sum of \$104,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to
12 the department of education, for the establishment of a miscellaneous business operations specialist
13 position to administer the provisions of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for
14 said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

15 3 Appropriation; Department of Education. The sum of \$1,000,000 for the biennium ending
16 June 30, 2027, is hereby appropriated to the department of education, for the purpose of providing
17 school districts software for establishing an online application for free or reduced price school meals.
18 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
19 otherwise appropriated.

20 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

HB 646-FN-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT requiring school districts to establish an online application for participation in the free and reduced price meal program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue Fund(s)	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	<u>Department of Education Position</u> Indeterminable (Up to \$102,000 in FY 2026 and \$104,000 in FY 2027) <u>Software</u> Indeterminable (up to \$1,000,000)		Indeterminable
Funding Source(s)	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	<u>Department of Education Position</u> \$102,000 in FY 2026 and \$104,000 in FY 2027 <u>Software</u> \$1,000,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027		\$0
Funding Source(s)	General Fund			

***Expenditure = Cost of bill**

***Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill**

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to provide a complete fiscal note for this bill, as introduced, as it is awaiting information from the Department of Education. The Department was originally contacted on 01/04/25 for a fiscal note worksheet. When completed, a revised fiscal note will be forwarded to the House Clerk's Office.

METHODOLOGY:

This bill directs the Department of Education to adopt rules to require school districts to offer online and physical free or reduced-price school meals applications and requires the Department to provide administrative and technical assistance to districts for this purpose. This bill provides the following general fund appropriations to the Department:

- \$102,000 in FY 2026 and \$104,000 in FY 2027, for the purpose of establishing a position to administer the provisions of this bill

- \$1,000,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose of providing school districts software for establishing an online application for free or reduced-price school meals.

It can assumed that all funds would be expended in the fiscal year(s) to which they are appropriated. However, estimates as to timing or amount of expenditures, or start date for the new position, have not been provided. Any unexpended funds would lapse back to the general fund. This bill's potential impact in FY 2028, and beyond, is unknown.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education