

Universal School Meals Program Act

Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Ilhan Omar

Section-by-Section

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec.1.Short title; table of contents.

Sec.2.Effective date. – 1 year after the date of enactment.

TITLE I—SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Sec.101.General elimination of reduced price breakfasts. – Strikes mentions of reduced-price breakfast.

Sec.102.Free school breakfast program. – Establishes a free breakfast program, so that all children can eat breakfast for free regardless of their parents' income, participation in an entitlement program, or ability to fill out complicated forms. Increases the reimbursement rate to \$2.72 per breakfast. During the transition period, requires schools to provide a free breakfast to all children who wish to participate in the program, prohibits school from shaming children who participate in the breakfast program, and prevents schools from collecting unpaid school breakfast debt from parents and guardians.

TITLE II—SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Sec.201.General repeal of reduced price lunches. – Strikes mentions of reduced-price lunch.

Sec.202.Apportionment to States. – Increases the reimbursement rate to \$3.81 per meal. Provides an incentive of \$.30 per lunch for schools to purchase at least 30% of their food locally. Defines local food as a farm product that is produced within 250 miles of **or** within a same state as the School Food Authority and distributed through direct sale or intermediate channels, such as a food hubs.

Sec.203.Nutritional and other program requirements. – Eliminates the income requirements for free and reduced price lunch. Makes all children enrolled at a school eligible for free school lunch. Makes conforming amendments to several other laws that reference free and reduced school lunch participation. During the transition period, requires schools to provide a free lunch to all children who wish to participate in the program, prohibits school from shaming children who participate in the lunch program, and prevents schools from collecting unpaid school lunch debt from parents and guardians.

Sec.204.Special assistance program. – Makes conforming amendments to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Program Act.

Sec.205.Price for a paid lunch. – Increases the reimbursement rate for school lunch to \$3.81 per lunch.

Sec.206.Summer food service program for children. – Makes all communities eligible to

participate in the Summer Food Service program regardless of the surrounding community's income. Allows the Summer Food Service Program to operate from May to September, during school vacations, and on any days that the schools might be closed due to natural disasters, repairs, or other similar hurdles. Expands the number of meal services eligible for reimbursement to 3 meals and 1 snack per child per day.

Sec.207.Summer electronic benefit transfer for children program. – Provides a \$60 per month per child SNAP EBT benefit for three summer months for all children whose families make less than 200% of the poverty line annually (\$49,200 for a family of four). Allows states that participated in the Summer EBT Demonstration Program and used WIC to continue to operate the program using WIC.

Sec.208.Child and adult care food program. – Eliminates the two-tier system and reimburses all child care facilities (public, private, and for-profit) to receive the higher, tier 1 reimbursement regardless of the incomes of the families whose children attend the facility or the income of the surrounding community. Allows childcare facilities to be reimbursed for 3 meals and 1 snack. Modifies the “Program for At-Risk School Children” to the “Afterschool Meal and Snack Program,” and expands it to 1 meal and 1 snack on schools days and 3 meals and 1 snack on all other days.

Sec.209.Meal supplements and meals for children in afterschool care. – Expands the afterschool snack program to all schools so that all school will be reimbursed for a free meal and a snack for children who participate in afterschool care or activities.

Sec.210.Access to local foods: farm to school program. – Conforming amendment to alter program eligibility criteria from a high proportion of children who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch to a high proportion of “identified students.”

Sec.211.Fresh fruit and vegetable program. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch. Provides outreach to high-need schools to ensure they are aware of this program.

Sec.212.Training, technical assistance, and food service management institute. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch.

Sec.213.Reimbursement of school meal delinquent debt program. – Directs USDA to establish a program to allow schools to apply for a one-time reimbursement for all delinquent debt from unpaid meal fees under the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program. All payments shall be made no later than two years after the effective date.

TITLE III—ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION DATA

Sec.301.Measure of poverty. – Modifies the definition of “identified student” under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for the purposes of determining eligibility for Title I funding and other programs to include children who are runaway or homeless youth, foster children, migratory children, eligible for Medicaid, participate in SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or Head Start; and includes a multiplier of 1.6.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER PROGRAMS AND LAWS

Sec.401.Supplemental nutrition assistance program. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch.

Sec.402.Higher Education Act of 1965. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch.

Sec.403.Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch.

Sec.404.America COMPETES Act. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch.

Sec.405.Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch.

Sec.406.National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch.

Sec.407.Child care and development block grant. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch and alter the metric to reference “identified students.”

Sec.408.Children’s Health Act of 2000. – Conforming amendment to remove the mention of free and reduced-price lunch and alter the metric to reference “identified students.”

Sec.409.Juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. – Provides free lunch to all children in public and non-profit juvenile detention centers.