

By Senator Rouson

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to K-12 school lunches and breakfasts;
amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; requiring K-12 public
schools to participate in the National School Lunch
Program and the School Breakfast Program; providing
requirements for the provision of school lunches and
breakfasts at such schools; authorizing school
districts to collect payment for specified meals;
prohibiting school districts from using third-party
debt collectors; providing for the reimbursement of
school breakfasts by the Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services; providing a calculation for such
reimbursement; authorizing the Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 1001.42, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The
district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all
powers and perform all duties listed below:

(16) SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.—

(a) Assume such responsibilities and exercise such powers
and perform such duties as may be assigned to it by law or as
may be required by rules of the Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services or, as in the opinion of the district school
board, are necessary to ensure school lunch services, consistent

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with needs of students; effective and efficient operation of the program; and the proper articulation of the school lunch program with other phases of education in the district.

(b) Each school district shall require each school within the district to participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Each school shall make:

1. Lunch available pursuant to the National School Lunch Program, regardless of whether a student has the money to pay for the lunch or owes money for meals previously provided. A school district may collect payment for meals provided pursuant to this paragraph. However, a school district may not use a third-party debt collector to collect such debt.

2. Breakfast available pursuant to the National School Breakfast Program at no cost to the student unless the student's parent has provided written notification to the school to withhold such meal from the student. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall reimburse each school district for each school breakfast served to a student, with a maximum of one breakfast per student per school day. The reimbursement rate shall be the difference between the amount paid by the United States Department of Agriculture and the free rate set annually by the United States Secretary of Agriculture for each school.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.