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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A1406 (2R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
REPRINT(S):	Yes	ACF 5/8/25 1R ABU 6/26/25 2R
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	Yes Children, Families & Food Security Budget
	SENATE:	No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 104, *approved July 22, 2025*
Senate, No. 2167 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards
2 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.
3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
8 a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in
9 the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
10 activity negatively impacts students’ health and their ability and
11 motivation to learn.
12 b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and
13 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is
14 the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.
15 c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant
16 steps to implement new approaches through the National School
17 Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to
18 address child and adolescent obesity.
19 d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the
20 National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are
21 required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary
22 guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like
23 obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.
24 e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under
25 the federal “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010,” public
26 schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and
27 sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains,
28 fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million
29 students who receive federally subsidized meals.
30 f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome
31 operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal
32 School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole
33 grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent
34 of schools were compliant in every state.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 5, 2025.
²Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

g. These ²[more]² stringent nutrition standards have helped to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17.

h. ²[However, the United States Department of Agriculture has recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains, flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the regulations adopted in 2012 under the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.”] In April 2024, the United States Department of Agriculture adopted a final rule titled “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans” in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, setting forth changes in child nutrition programs concerning nutrition requirements, menu flexibility, and program operations, to be effective for the 2025-2026 school year unless otherwise phased in. The changes were based on a comprehensive review of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, stakeholder input on the meal patterns, and lessons from prior rulemaking.²

i. ²[Beginning next school year, schools can request an exemption from the whole grain requirements and delay the sodium mandate and schools will also be able to serve one percent flavored milk instead of nonfat] Pursuant to these federal regulations, 80 percent of weekly grains served must be whole grain-rich².

j. ²The federal regulations also phase in new sodium content mandates and, beginning July 1, 2027, require schools to reduce the lunch meal sodium content by 15 percent and the breakfast meal sodium content by 10 percent.

k. The federal regulations also impose new, lower product-based added sugar limits for breakfast cereals, yogurt, and flavored milk, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Flavored milk must not contain more than 10 grams of added sugars per eight fluid ounces. Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, in addition to product based limits, added sugars must be less than 10 percent of calories per week in the school lunch and breakfast programs.

l.² It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the ²[more stringent nutrition regulations that were adopted in 2012 under the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” in order] updated nutrition guidelines in the federal regulations at 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, in order² for the State to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.

²m. These federal regulations provide flexibilities in meeting the standards and are also more strict in various areas.²

2. a. A public school ¹and a nonpublic school participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School

1 Breakfast Program¹ shall comply ¹[, at a minimum,]¹ with the
2 ²['most stringent'¹]² nutrition standards for ²[': (1)] the National
3 School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program and²
4 competitive foods sold in schools ²[adopted by the United States
5 Department of Agriculture as published in Volume 81, Number 146
6 of the Federal Register dated July 26, 2016, and Volume 89,
7 Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25, 2024,]
8 established in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and
9 Part 226, as required to be implemented by July 1, 2027, as in effect
10 on July 1, 2024,² or any other more stringent nutrition standards
11 adopted at the federal level in the future ²]; and

12 (2)¹ the National School Lunch Program and federal School
13 Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of
14 Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal
15 Register dated January 26, 2012. ¹[If more stringent standards for
16 the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast
17 Program are adopted by the United States Department of
18 Agriculture on or after the date of enactment of
19 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
20 public school shall comply with those more stringent nutrition
21 standards] and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register
22 dated April 25, 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition
23 standards adopted at the federal level in the future]^{2.1}

24 b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch
25 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall ¹[, at a
26 minimum,]¹ comply with the ²['most stringent'¹]² current² nutrition
27 standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal
28 School Breakfast Program ²[adopted by the United States
29 Department of Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17
30 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012 ¹[If more stringent
31 standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal
32 School Breakfast Program are adopted by the United States
33 Department of Agriculture on or after the date of enactment of
34 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
35 public school shall comply with the more stringent nutrition
36 standards] and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register
37 dated April 25, 2024,] established in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215,
38 Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, as required to be implemented by
39 July 1, 2027, as in effect on July 1, 2024,² or any other more
40 stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the
41 future¹.

42 ¹c. As used in this section, “competitive foods” means all food
43 and beverage items sold at school, other than meals served through
44 the United States Department of Agriculture’s school meal
45 programs on the school campus at any time during the school day.¹

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately ¹【and shall first apply
2 to the 2024-2025 school year】¹ ²and shall first apply to the 2025-
3 2026 school year².

4

5

6

7

8 Requires public and certain nonpublic schools to comply with
9 breakfast and lunch standards adopted by USDA.

CHAPTER 104

AN ACT concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:33-14b Findings, declarations.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
 - a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and motivation to learn.
 - b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.
 - c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant steps to implement new approaches through the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to address child and adolescent obesity.
 - d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.
 - e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," public schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains, fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million students who receive federally subsidized meals.
 - f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent of schools were compliant in every state.
 - g. These stringent nutrition standards have helped to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17.
 - h. In April 2024, the United States Department of Agriculture adopted a final rule titled "Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans" in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, setting forth changes in child nutrition programs concerning nutrition requirements, menu flexibility, and program operations, to be effective for the 2025-2026 school year unless otherwise phased in. The changes were based on a comprehensive review of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, stakeholder input on the meal patterns, and lessons from prior rulemaking.
 - i. Pursuant to these federal regulations, 80 percent of weekly grains served must be whole grain-rich.
 - j. The federal regulations also phase in new sodium content mandates and, beginning July 1, 2027, require schools to reduce the lunch meal sodium content by 15 percent and the breakfast meal sodium content by 10 percent.
 - k. The federal regulations also impose new, lower product-based added sugar limits for breakfast cereals, yogurt, and flavored milk, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Flavored milk must not contain more than 10 grams of added sugars per eight fluid ounces. Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, in addition to product based limits, added sugars must be less than 10 percent of calories per week in the school lunch and breakfast programs.

l. It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the updated nutrition guidelines in the federal regulations at 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, in order for the State to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.

m. These federal regulations provide flexibilities in meeting the standards and are also stricter in various areas.

C.18A:33-14c National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program nutrition standards, compliance for participants.

2. a. A public school and a nonpublic school participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall comply with the nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program and competitive foods sold in schools established in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, as required to be implemented by July 1, 2027, as in effect on July 1, 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall comply with the current nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program established in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, as required to be implemented by July 1, 2027, as in effect on July 1, 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

c. As used in this section, “competitive foods” means all food and beverage items sold at school other than meals served through the United States Department of Agriculture’s school meal programs on the school campus at any time during the school day.

3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the 2025-2026 school year.

Approved July 22, 2025.

SENATE, No. 2167

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Turner, Pou and McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Requires public schools to comply with lunch and breakfast nutrition standards adopted by USDA.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/5/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards
2 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in
9 the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
10 activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and
11 motivation to learn.

12 b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and
13 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is
14 the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.

15 c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant
16 steps to implement new approaches through the National School
17 Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to
18 address child and adolescent obesity.

19 d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the
20 National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are
21 required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary
22 guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like
23 obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

24 e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under
25 the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," public
26 schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and
27 sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains,
28 fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million
29 students who receive federally subsidized meals.

30 f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome
31 operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal
32 School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole
33 grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent
34 of schools were compliant in every state.

35 g. These more stringent nutrition standards have helped to
36 reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the
37 ages of 10 and 17.

38 h. However, the United States Department of Agriculture has
39 recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains,
40 flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the
41 regulations adopted in 2012 under the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids
42 Act of 2010."

43 i. Beginning next school year, schools can request an
44 exemption from the whole grain requirements and delay the sodium
45 mandate and schools will also be able to serve one percent flavored
46 milk instead of nonfat.

47 j. It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the
48 more stringent nutrition regulations that were adopted in 2012 under

1 the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” in order for the State
2 to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.

3
4 2. a. A public school shall comply, at a minimum, with the
5 nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and
6 federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the United States
7 Department of Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17
8 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012. If more stringent
9 standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal
10 School Breakfast Program are adopted by the United States
11 Department of Agriculture on or after the date of enactment of
12 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
13 public school shall comply with those more stringent nutrition
14 standards.

15 b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch
16 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall, at a
17 minimum, comply with the nutrition standards for the National
18 School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program
19 adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture, as
20 published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register dated
21 January 26, 2012. If more stringent standards for the National
22 School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program are
23 adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture on or after
24 the date of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
25 Legislature as this bill), a public school shall comply with the more
26 stringent nutrition standards.

27
28 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
29 the 2024-2025 school year.

30
31
32 STATEMENT

33
34 This bill would require all public schools to comply with the
35 previous nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program
36 and federal School Breakfast Program that were adopted by the
37 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and published in
38 Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register dated January 26,
39 2012, or any more stringent nutrition standards adopted by the
40 USDA after the bill’s enactment.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2167

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

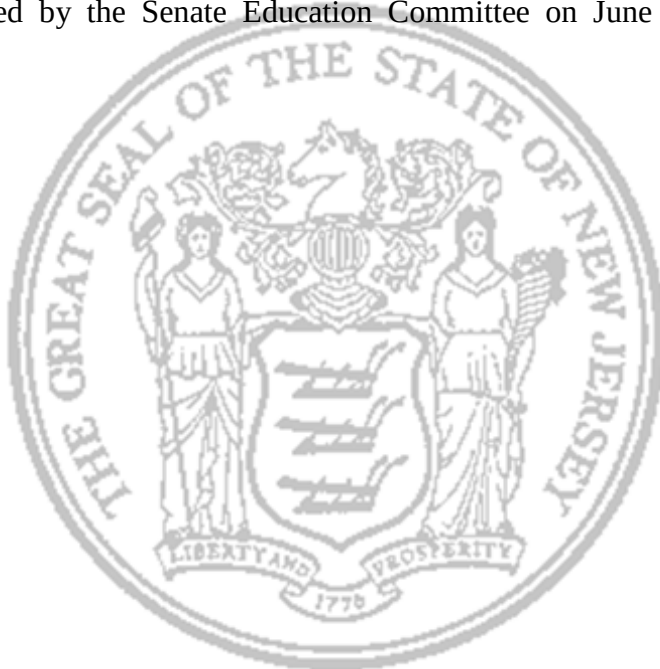
Senators Turner, Pou, McKnight and Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Requires public and certain nonpublic schools to comply with breakfast and lunch standards adopted by USDA.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on June 5, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards
2 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in
9 the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
10 activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and
11 motivation to learn.

12 b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and
13 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is
14 the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.

15 c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant
16 steps to implement new approaches through the National School
17 Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to
18 address child and adolescent obesity.

19 d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the
20 National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are
21 required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary
22 guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like
23 obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

24 e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under
25 the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," public
26 schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and
27 sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains,
28 fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million
29 students who receive federally subsidized meals.

30 f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome
31 operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal
32 School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole
33 grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent
34 of schools were compliant in every state.

35 g. These more stringent nutrition standards have helped to
36 reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the
37 ages of 10 and 17.

38 h. However, the United States Department of Agriculture has
39 recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains,
40 flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the
41 regulations adopted in 2012 under the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids
42 Act of 2010."

43 i. Beginning next school year, schools can request an
44 exemption from the whole grain requirements and delay the sodium

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 5, 2025.

1 mandate and schools will also be able to serve one percent flavored
2 milk instead of nonfat.

3 j. It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the
4 more stringent nutrition regulations that were adopted in 2012 under
5 the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” in order for the State
6 to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.
7

8 2. a. A public school ¹and a nonpublic school participating in
9 the National School Lunch Program and the federal School
10 Breakfast Program¹ shall comply ¹‘[, at a minimum,]’ with the
11 ¹‘most stringent’ nutrition standards for ¹;

12 (1) competitive foods sold in schools adopted by the United
13 States Department of Agriculture as published in Volume 81,
14 Number 146 of the Federal Register dated July 26, 2016, and
15 Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25,
16 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition standards adopted at the
17 federal level in the future; and

18 (2)¹ the National School Lunch Program and federal School
19 Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of
20 Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal
21 Register dated January 26, 2012. ¹‘[If more stringent standards for
22 the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast
23 Program are adopted by the United States Department of
24 Agriculture on or after the date of enactment of
25 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
26 public school shall comply with those more stringent nutrition
27 standards] and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register
28 dated April 25, 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition
29 standards adopted at the federal level in the future.’¹

30 b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch
31 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall ¹‘[, at a
32 minimum,]’ comply with the ¹‘most stringent’ nutrition standards
33 for the National School Lunch Program and federal School
34 Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of
35 Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal
36 Register dated January 26, 2012 ¹‘[If more stringent standards for
37 the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast
38 Program are adopted by the United States Department of
39 Agriculture on or after the date of enactment of
40 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
41 public school shall comply with the more stringent nutrition
42 standards] and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register
43 dated April 25, 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition
44 standards adopted at the federal level in the future’¹.

1 ¹c. As used in this section, “competitive foods” means all food
2 and beverage items sold at school, other than meals served through
3 the United States Department of Agriculture’s school meal
4 programs on the school campus at any time during the school day.¹

5

6 3. This act shall take effect immediately ¹**【and shall first apply**
7 **to the 2024-2025 school year】**¹.

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2167

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

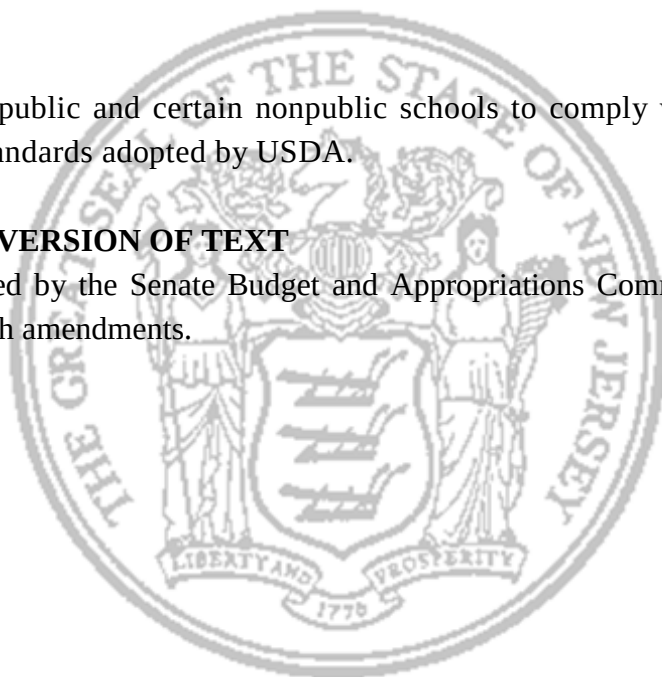
**Senators Turner, Pou, McKnight, Diegnan, Assemblyman Venezia,
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy, Morales and Assemblyman
Calabrese**

SYNOPSIS

Requires public and certain nonpublic schools to comply with breakfast and lunch standards adopted by USDA.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 26, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards
2 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in
9 the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
10 activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and
11 motivation to learn.

12 b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and
13 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is
14 the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.

15 c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant
16 steps to implement new approaches through the National School
17 Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to
18 address child and adolescent obesity.

19 d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the
20 National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are
21 required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary
22 guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like
23 obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

24 e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under
25 the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," public
26 schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and
27 sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains,
28 fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million
29 students who receive federally subsidized meals.

30 f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome
31 operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal
32 School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole
33 grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent
34 of schools were compliant in every state.

35 g. These ²**[more]**² stringent nutrition standards have helped to
36 reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the
37 ages of 10 and 17.

38 h. ²**[However, the United States Department of Agriculture has**
39 **recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains,**
40 **flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the**
41 **regulations adopted in 2012 under the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids**
42 **Act of 2010."]** In April 2024, the United States Department of
43 Agriculture adopted a final rule titled "Child Nutrition Programs:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 5, 2025.

²Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans” in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, setting forth changes in child nutrition programs concerning nutrition requirements, menu flexibility, and program operations, to be effective for the 2025-2026 school year unless otherwise phased in. The changes were based on a comprehensive review of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, stakeholder input on the meal patterns, and lessons from prior rulemaking.²

i. ²Beginning next school year, schools can request an exemption from the whole grain requirements and delay the sodium mandate and schools will also be able to serve one percent flavored milk instead of nonfat Pursuant to these federal regulations, 80 percent of weekly grains served must be whole grain-rich².

j. ²The federal regulations also phase in new sodium content mandates and, beginning July 1, 2027, require schools to reduce the lunch meal sodium content by 15 percent and the breakfast meal sodium content by 10 percent.

k. The federal regulations also impose new, lower product-based added sugar limits for breakfast cereals, yogurt, and flavored milk, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Flavored milk must not contain more than 10 grams of added sugars per eight fluid ounces. Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, in addition to product based limits, added sugars must be less than 10 percent of calories per week in the school lunch and breakfast programs.

l.² It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the ²more stringent nutrition regulations that were adopted in 2012 under the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” in order updated nutrition guidelines in the federal regulations at 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, in order² for the State to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.

²m. These federal regulations provide flexibilities in meeting the standards and are also more strict in various areas.²

2. a. A public school ¹and a nonpublic school participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program¹ shall comply ¹[, at a minimum,¹] with the ²most stringent¹² nutrition standards for ²1: (1) the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program and² competitive foods sold in schools ²adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture as published in Volume 81, Number 146 of the Federal Register dated July 26, 2016, and Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25, 2024, established in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, as required to be implemented by July 1, 2027, as in effect

1 on July 1, 2024,² or any other more stringent nutrition standards
2 adopted at the federal level in the future²]; and

3 (2)¹ the National School Lunch Program and federal School
4 Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of
5 Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal
6 Register dated January 26, 2012. ¹["If more stringent standards for
7 the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast
8 Program are adopted by the United States Department of
9 Agriculture on or after the date of enactment of
10 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
11 public school shall comply with those more stringent nutrition
12 standards] and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register
13 dated April 25, 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition
14 standards adopted at the federal level in the future]^{2.1}

15 b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch
16 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall ¹["at a
17 minimum,]¹ comply with the ²["most stringent¹"] current² nutrition
18 standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal
19 School Breakfast Program ²["adopted by the United States
20 Department of Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17
21 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012 ¹["If more stringent
22 standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal
23 School Breakfast Program are adopted by the United States
24 Department of Agriculture on or after the date of enactment of
25 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
26 public school shall comply with the more stringent nutrition
27 standards] and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register
28 dated April 25, 2024,] established in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215,
29 Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, as required to be implemented by
30 July 1, 2027, as in effect on July 1, 2024,² or any other more
31 stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the
32 future¹.

33 ¹c. As used in this section, "competitive foods" means all food
34 and beverage items sold at school, other than meals served through
35 the United States Department of Agriculture's school meal
36 programs on the school campus at any time during the school day.¹

37
38 3. This act shall take effect immediately ¹["and shall first apply
39 to the 2024-2025 school year]^{1 2} and shall first apply to the 2025-
40 2026 school year².

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2167

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 5, 2025

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2167.

As amended, this bill requires all public and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program to comply with the most stringent nutrition standards for competitive foods sold in schools adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture as published in Volume 81, Number 146 of the Federal Register dated July 26, 2016, and Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25, 2024, as well as the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012 and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25, 2024, or any other more stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

The amended bill specifies that all reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program are to comply with the most stringent nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture or any other more stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2024-2025 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- provide that a nonpublic school participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast program is to comply with the provisions of the bill;
- specify that the provisions of the bill also apply to competitive foods sold in schools;
- clarify that schools are to comply with any other more stringent federal nutrition standards adopted in the future; and
- update the effective date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2167

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2167 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires all public and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program to comply with federal nutrition standards and competitive foods sold in schools adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program, or any other more stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

The bill codifies in State law that all reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program are to comply with the current nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture or any other updated nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) stipulate that the nutrition standards referenced in the bill are the standards adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture in the final rule titled “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans” in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226; and

(2) change the bill’s effective date so that it first applies to the 2025-2026 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1406

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Venezia

SYNOPSIS

Requires public schools to comply with more stringent school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards adopted by USDA in 2012.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/24)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards
2 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in
9 the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
10 activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and
11 motivation to learn.

12 b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and
13 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is
14 the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.

15 c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant
16 steps to implement new approaches through the National School
17 Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to
18 address child and adolescent obesity.

19 d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the
20 National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are
21 required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary
22 guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like
23 obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

24 e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under
25 the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," public
26 schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and
27 sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains,
28 fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million
29 students who receive federally subsidized meals.

30 f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome
31 operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal
32 School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole
33 grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent
34 of schools were compliant in every state.

35 g. These more stringent nutrition standards have helped to
36 reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the
37 ages of 10 and 17.

38 h. However, the United States Department of Agriculture has
39 recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains,
40 flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the
41 regulations adopted in 2012 under the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids
42 Act of 2010."

43 i. Beginning next school year, schools can request an
44 exemption from the whole grain requirements and delay the sodium
45 mandate and schools will also be able to serve one percent flavored
46 milk instead of nonfat.

47 j. It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the
48 more stringent nutrition regulations that were adopted in 2012 under

1 the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” in order for the State
2 to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.

3
4 2. a. A public school shall comply with the nutrition standards
5 for the National School Lunch Program and federal School
6 Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of
7 Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal
8 Register dated January 26, 2012, or any more stringent nutrition
9 standards.

10 b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch
11 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall comply
12 with the nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program
13 and federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the United States
14 Department of Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17
15 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012, or any more
16 stringent nutrition standards.

17
18 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
19
20

21 STATEMENT
22

23 This bill would require all public schools to comply with the
24 previous nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program
25 and federal School Breakfast Program that were adopted by the
26 United States Department of Agriculture and published in Volume
27 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012, or
28 any more stringent nutrition standards.

29 Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in the
30 United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
31 activity negatively impacts students’ health and their ability and
32 motivation to learn.

33 Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant steps
34 to implement new approaches through the National School Lunch
35 Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to address
36 child and adolescent obesity. Federally subsidized meal programs,
37 which include the National School Lunch and federal School
38 Breakfast Program, are required to have nutrition standards that
39 meet specific dietary guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent
40 chronic diseases like obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure,
41 and Type 2 diabetes.

42 Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under the
43 federal “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010,” public schools
44 were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and sodium in
45 school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains, fruits and
46 vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million students who
47 receive federally subsidized meals. These more stringent nutrition
48 standards have helped to reduce the obesity rate for children and

1 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17. However, the United
2 States Department of Agriculture has recently announced its plans
3 to lower nutrition standards for grains, flavored milks, and sodium
4 in school cafeterias that were part of the regulations adopted in
5 2012 under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1406

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

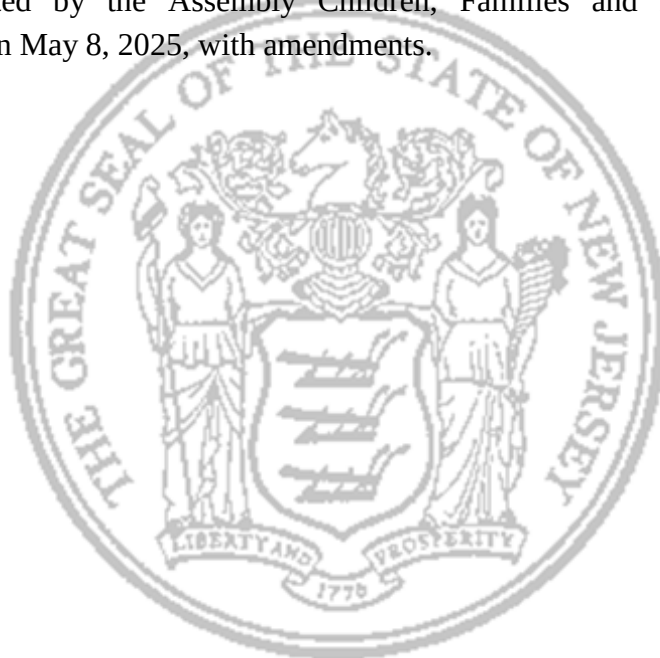
Assemblyman Venezia and Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Requires public schools and certain nonpublic schools to comply with most stringent school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee on May 8, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards
2 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in
9 the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
10 activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and
11 motivation to learn.

12 b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and
13 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is
14 the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.

15 c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant
16 steps to implement new approaches through the National School
17 Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to
18 address child and adolescent obesity.

19 d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the
20 National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are
21 required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary
22 guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like
23 obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

24 e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under
25 the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," public
26 schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and
27 sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains,
28 fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million
29 students who receive federally subsidized meals.

30 f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome
31 operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal
32 School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole
33 grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent
34 of schools were compliant in every state.

35 g. These more stringent nutrition standards have helped to
36 reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the
37 ages of 10 and 17.

38 h. However, the United States Department of Agriculture has
39 recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains,
40 flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the
41 regulations adopted in 2012 under the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids
42 Act of 2010."

43 i. Beginning next school year, schools can request an
44 exemption from the whole grain requirements and delay the sodium

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ACF committee amendments adopted May 8, 2025.

1 mandate and schools will also be able to serve one percent flavored
2 milk instead of nonfat.

3 j. It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the
4 more stringent nutrition regulations that were adopted in 2012 under
5 the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” in order for the State
6 to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.
7

8 2. a. A public school ¹and a nonpublic school participating in the
9 National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast
10 Program¹ shall comply with the ¹most stringent¹ nutrition standards
11 for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast
12 Program adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture, as
13 published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register dated
14 January 26, 2012 ¹and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal
15 Register dated April 25, 2024¹, or any ¹other¹ more stringent nutrition
16 standards ¹adopted at the federal level in the future¹.

17 b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch
18 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall comply with
19 the ¹most stringent¹ nutrition standards for the National School Lunch
20 Program and federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the United
21 States Department of Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number
22 17 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012 ¹and in Volume 89,
23 Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25, 2024¹, or any
24 ¹other¹ more stringent nutrition standards ¹adopted at the federal level
25 in the future¹.
26

27 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1406

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Venezia, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy,
Morales and Assemblyman Calabrese**

SYNOPSIS

Requires public and certain nonpublic schools to comply with breakfast and lunch standards adopted by USDA.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Budget Committee on June 26, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school lunch and breakfast nutrition standards
2 and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in
9 the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical
10 activity negatively impacts students’ health and their ability and
11 motivation to learn.

12 b. In New Jersey, the current obesity rate for children and
13 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 is 14.8 percent, which is
14 the 28th highest child and adolescent obesity rate in the nation.

15 c. Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant
16 steps to implement new approaches through the National School
17 Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to
18 address child and adolescent obesity.

19 d. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the
20 National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are
21 required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary
22 guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like
23 obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

24 e. Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under
25 the federal “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010,” public
26 schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and
27 sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains,
28 fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million
29 students who receive federally subsidized meals.

30 f. Public schools have worked diligently to overcome
31 operational challenges in the National School Lunch and federal
32 School Breakfast Programs created by meeting sodium, whole
33 grain-rich, and milk requirements and, by 2016, at least 90 percent
34 of schools were compliant in every state.

35 g. These ²**[more]**² stringent nutrition standards have helped to
36 reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the
37 ages of 10 and 17.

38 h. ²**[However, the United States Department of Agriculture has**
39 recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains,
40 flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the
41 regulations adopted in 2012 under the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids
42 Act of 2010.”**]** In April 2024, the United States Department of
43 Agriculture adopted a final rule titled “Child Nutrition Programs:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ACF committee amendments adopted May 8, 2025.

²Assembly ABU committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans” in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, setting forth changes in child nutrition programs concerning nutrition requirements, menu flexibility, and program operations, to be effective for the 2025-2026 school year unless otherwise phased in. The changes were based on a comprehensive review of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, stakeholder input on the meal patterns, and lessons from prior rulemaking.²

i. ²Beginning next school year, schools can request an exemption from the whole grain requirements and delay the sodium mandate and schools will also be able to serve one percent flavored milk instead of nonfat Pursuant to these federal regulations, 80 percent of weekly grains served must be whole grain-rich².

j. ²The federal regulations also phase in new sodium content mandates and, beginning July 1, 2027, require schools to reduce the lunch meal sodium content by 15 percent and the breakfast meal sodium content by 10 percent.

k. The federal regulations also impose new, lower product-based added sugar limits for breakfast cereals, yogurt, and flavored milk, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Flavored milk must not contain more than 10 grams of added sugars per eight fluid ounces. Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, in addition to product based limits, added sugars must be less than 10 percent of calories per week in the school lunch and breakfast programs.

l.² It is important for public schools in the State to abide by the ²more stringent nutrition regulations that were adopted in 2012 under the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” in order updated nutrition guidelines in the federal regulations at 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, in order² for the State to continue to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents.

²m. These federal regulations provide flexibilities in meeting the standards and are also more strict in various areas.²

2. a. A public school ¹and a nonpublic school participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program¹ shall comply with the ²most stringent¹² nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program ²adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture, as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012 ¹and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25, 2024¹ and competitive foods sold in schools established in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, as required to be implemented by July 1, 2027, as in effect on July 1, 2024², or any

1 ¹other¹ more stringent nutrition standards ¹adopted at the federal
2 level in the future¹.

3 b. All reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch
4 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program shall comply
5 with the ²['¹most stringent¹'] current² nutrition standards for the
6 National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast
7 Program ²['adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture,
8 as published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register
9 dated January 26, 2012 ¹and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the
10 Federal Register dated April 25, 2024¹'] established in 7 C.F.R. Part
11 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226, as required to be
12 implemented by July 1, 2027, as in effect on July 1, 2024², or any
13 ¹other¹ more stringent nutrition standards ¹adopted at the federal
14 level in the future¹.

15 ²c. As used in this section, “competitive foods” means all food
16 and beverage items sold at school, other than meals served through
17 the United States Department of Agriculture’s school meal
18 programs on the school campus at any time during the school day.²
19

20 3. This act shall take effect immediately ²and shall first apply
21 to the 2025-2026 school year².

ASSEMBLY CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1406

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 8, 2025

The Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1406.

As amended by the committee, this bill would require public schools and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program to comply with the most stringent nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program that were adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and published in Volume 77, Number 17 of the Federal Register dated January 26, 2012 and in Volume 89, Number 80 of the Federal Register dated April 25, 2024, or any other more stringent federal nutrition standards adopted in the future.

Child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in the United States and poor diet combined with the lack of physical activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and motivation to learn.

Over the past 15 years, policymakers have taken significant steps to implement new approaches through the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program in order to address child and adolescent obesity. Federally subsidized meal programs, which include the National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Program, are required to have nutrition standards that meet specific dietary guidelines. These guidelines can help prevent chronic diseases like obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

Under the nutrition regulations adopted in July 2012 under the federal "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," public schools were required to reduce the amount of calories, fat, and sodium in school cafeterias and increase offerings of whole grains, fruits and vegetables, and nonfat milk to the roughly 32 million students who receive federally subsidized meals. These more stringent nutrition standards have helped to reduce the obesity rate for children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17.

However, the USDA has recently announced its plans to lower nutrition standards for grains, flavored milks, and sodium in school cafeterias that were part of the regulations adopted in 2012 under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This bill would require all public schools and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Programs to comply with the most stringent nutritional standards for the programs adopted by the USDA in 2012 and 2024, and any other more stringent federal standards adopted in the future.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2024-2025 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments expand the provisions of the bill to require nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program to comply with the nutritional standards adopted by the USDA as delineated in the bill.

The committee amendments require public schools and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch and federal School Breakfast Programs and all reimbursable meals under these programs to comply with the most stringent nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the USDA in 2012 and 2024 and any other more stringent federal standards adopted in the future.

The committee amendments update the synopsis of the bill to reflect the changes made by the committee amendments.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1406

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1406 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires all public and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program to comply with federal nutrition standards and competitive foods sold in schools adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program, or any other more stringent nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

The bill codifies in State law that all reimbursable meals under the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program are to comply with the current nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture or any other updated nutrition standards adopted at the federal level in the future.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) stipulate that the nutrition standards referenced in the bill are the standards adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture in the final rule titled “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans” in 7 C.F.R. Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 225, and Part 226; and

(2) change the bill’s effective date so that it first applies to the 2025-2026 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

Posted on - 07/22/2025

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

S2167/A1406 (Ruiz, Vitale/Haider, Swain) – Requires public and certain nonpublic schools to comply with breakfast and lunch standards adopted by USDA

S3052/A4878 (Johnson, Space/Park, Tucker, Speight) – Concerns grade options at public institutions of higher education for service member and dependents unable to complete course due to military obligation

S3711/A5153 (McKeon, Zwicker/Haider, Reynolds-Jackson, Spearman) – Makes annual allocation of \$500,000 from Clean Communities Program Fund for public outreach concerning single-use plastics reduction program permanent.

SCS for S3982/A4592 (Ruiz/Reynolds-Jackson/Carter, Morales) – Requires certain information be provided to parent at least two business days prior to annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meeting; establishes IEP Improvement Working Group in DOE.

S4263/A5408 (Vitale, Scutari/Carter, Sumter. Speight) – Revises certain provisions concerning, and establishes certain education and data reporting requirements related to, involuntary commitment.

S4426/A5622 (Burzichelli, Singer/Schnall, Peterpaul, Kane) – Appropriates funds to DEP for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2026

S4439/A5729 (Lagana, Cryan/Swain) – Establishes protections for student-athletes and certain institutions of higher education concerning name, image, or likeness compensation; repeals “New Jersey Fair Play Act.”

A3128/SCS for S4071/S3155 (Coughlin, Wimberly, Pintor Marin/Ruiz, Scutari, Singleton, Greenstein, Turner) – Authorizes HMFA to use certain tax credits; directs HMFA to conduct tax credit auctions to provide financial assistance for certain housing purposes

A4897/S3769 (Carter, Atkins, Reynolds-Jackson/Cryan, Amato) – Revises law requiring certain student identification cards to contain telephone number for suicide prevention hotline

A5170/S4027 (Pintor Marin, Speight/Cruz-Perez, Pou) – Requires State to purchase certain unused tax credits issued under New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020

A5546/S4388 (Verrelli, Reynolds-Jackson/Turner) – Concerns financial powers and responsibilities of Capital City Redevelopment Corporation.

Posted on: July 22, 2025

Majority Leader Ruiz Bills Enhancing School Nutrition Standards and IEP Transparency Signed by Gov.

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed two bills into law sponsored by Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz, focused on improving educational outcomes by supporting student nutrition and wellness and strengthening parental engagement in special education programs.

The first bill, S-2167, sponsored by Senator Ruiz and Senator Joe Vitale, requires public and certain private schools to comply with lunch and breakfast nutrition standards adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2024, or any more stringent standards adopted thereafter. These standards include reducing calories, sodium, and saturated fat in school meals and increasing the offerings of grains, fruits, vegetables, and nonfat milk.



“Proper nutrition is foundational to a child’s ability to learn, grow, and thrive. For many students, a healthy school breakfast or lunch is their most dependable source of food each day, a lifeline for children who face food insecurity at home,” said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex/Hudson). “By upholding strong USDA nutritional standards, our schools can serve as powerful spaces to combat hunger, advance equity, and support the health, focus, and academic success of every student.”

The second bill signed into law, S-3982, improves the Individualized Education Program (IEP) review process by increasing transparency and parental involvement in special education programs. The bill requires schools to give parents a written statement of discussion items at least two business days before a student’s annual IEP meeting.

The legislation also establishes the Individualized Education Program Improvement Working Group within the Department of Education. The working group is meant to provide recommendations to the department to improve the development and implementation of IEPs and to ensure positive parental involvement.

"The annual opportunity for parents to review a student’s Individualized Education Program with their support team is a critical moment to evaluate a child’s learning goals, progress, and the services in place to support their growth," said Majority Leader Ruiz (D-Essex/Hudson). "By providing parents with information in advance of an IEP meeting, they can come better prepared to engage, ask

questions, and address concerns. This approach promotes greater transparency and strengthens collaboration between parents, educators, and administrators, bringing them together in their shared goal to support children's success."

Together, the two bills reflect Majority Leader Ruiz's commitment to meeting the diverse needs of all students—regardless of background or ability—and to positioning schools as holistic environments that support student well-being and success.