

18A:33-27.1
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2022 **CHAPTER:** 103

NJSA: 18A:33-27.1 (Requires school food authorities to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options.)

BILL NO: A2365 (Substituted for S1928 (1R))

SPONSOR(S) Joe Danielsen and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 2/7/2022

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Agriculture and Food Security
Appropriations

SENATE: Economic Growth
Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 6/29/2022

SENATE: 6/29/2022

DATE OF APPROVAL: 9/9/2022

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second Reprint enacted) Yes

A2365

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes Agriculture and Food Security
Appropriations

SENATE: Yes Economic Growth
Budget and Appropriations

(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: Yes 5/27/2022
6/28/2022

S1928 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes Economic Growth
Budget and Appropriations

(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: Yes 6/28/2022

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

end

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 103, *approved September 9, 2022*
Assembly, No. 2365 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of, and the education of parents
2 and guardians regarding, school meals programs that are
3 operating, or that are subject to expansion, in the State, and
4 amending P.L.2019, c.307.

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

8
9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.307 (C.18A:33-27.1) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 1. a. ¹**【The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the**
12 **Department of Education,】** Each ²**【food service vendor or food**
13 service management company】 school food authority² that provides
14 a food service to students at a public school in the State¹ shall ², in
15 the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of
16 students in the public school served by the school food authority²:

17 (1) develop and implement a public education campaign to
18 educate ¹the¹ parents and guardians ¹**【in the State】** of students at
19 schools served by the ²**【vendor or management company¹】** school
20 food authority² about the various school meals programs that are
21 available for students in New Jersey, and ¹about¹ the availability of
22 free and reduced price meals, under such programs, for students
23 who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility criteria; and

24 (2) develop promotional **【material】** materials for the **【"School**
25 Meal Program"】 State's school meals programs, and provide
26 ¹**【such】** copies of the¹ promotional materials to ¹**【every】** each¹
27 school ¹**【district】**¹ **【with the "School Meal Program" promotional**
28 material, which shall ¹that is served by the ²**【vendor or**
29 management company¹】 school food authority² in the State, for
30 distribution ¹**【thereby】** , by school staff,¹ to the parents and
31 guardians of students who are enrolled at ¹**【schools in the district.】**
32 the school. The ²**【food service vendor or food service management**
33 company】 school food authority² shall utilize existing resources,
34 which have been made available by the United States Department of
35 Agriculture and the ²**【State】** New Jersey² Department of
36 Agriculture, in developing promotional materials for the purposes
37 of this paragraph.¹ The promotional materials developed pursuant
38 to this paragraph shall include, but need not be limited to,
39 pamphlets, presentation **【material】** materials, webinars, and sample
40 letters that schools may send to parents and guardians.

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 AAP committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

²Senate SEG committee amendments adopted June 13, 2022.

1 b. The **["School Meal Program"]** public education campaign
2 and promotional **[material]** materials developed under subsection a.
3 of this section shall:

4 (1) ¹satisfy the standards, and comply with the guidelines,
5 established by the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with
6 the Department of Education, pursuant to subsection c. of this
7 section;

8 (2)¹ highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and
9 importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal
10 School Breakfast Program, **[and]** the federal Summer Food Service
11 Program **[,]** and other similar summer meals programs, as well as
12 the State's breakfast after the bell programs, established pursuant to
13 section 1 of P.L.2014, c.66 (C.18A:33-11.1) or section 2 of
14 P.L.2018, c.25 (C.18A:33-11.3), the State's emergency meals
15 distribution program, established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2020,
16 c.6 (C.18A:33-27.2), and any new school meals programs that are
17 implemented in the State after the effective date of
18 P.L. , c. ²**[(C.)]**² (pending before the Legislature as this
19 bill);

20 ¹**[(2)]** (3)¹ emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious
21 meal to all children for their general health and **[their]** success in
22 school;

23 ¹**[(3)]** (4)¹ emphasize and promote the ability of eligible
24 students to obtain free or reduced price meals under the State's
25 school meals programs, and inform parents and guardians about the
26 various ways in which a student may be determined to be
27 categorically eligible for free meals under these programs, and the
28 federal and State-level income-based criteria that must be satisfied
29 in order for a student to obtain free or reduced price school meals,
30 under these programs, on the basis of annual household income;

31 ¹**[(4)]** (5)¹ highlight and describe the application and
32 determination processes that are used, by schools and school
33 districts, to certify students for free or reduced price school meals;

34 ¹**[(5)]** (6)¹ highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to
35 students and families in association with a student's subsidized or
36 unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and

37 ¹**[(6)]** (7)¹ inform parents and guardians about the nature and
38 extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing
39 school meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to,
40 the nature and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of
41 the categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price
42 school meals under such programs.

43 ¹c. ²(1)² Within 60 days after the effective date of ²**[this act]**
44 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill)², the
45 Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of
46 Education, shall adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the

1 uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information being
2 presented by ²[food service vendors and food service management
3 companies] school food authorities² as part of the educational
4 campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed,
5 pursuant to this section.¹

6 ²(2) Within 60 days of the effective date of P.L. _____,
7 c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Department of
8 Education shall provide each school food authority that provides a
9 food service to students at a public school in the State with
10 information concerning the two languages that are most commonly
11 spoken in the homes of students in each of the public schools that
12 the school food authority serves. The Department of Education
13 shall periodically, and at least every five years, verify the two
14 languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students
15 in each public school served by each school food authority.

16 d. As used in this section:

17 “School food authority” shall mean the school, school district, or
18 third-party food service vendor, as applicable.²

19 (cf: P.L.2019, c.307, s.1)

20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

22

23

24

25

26 _____
27 Requires school food authorities to engage in public education
28 campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents
29 and guardians of students about existing and expanding school
meals program options.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman SADAF F. JAFFER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Atkins,
Assemblywomen Eulner, Piperno and Assemblyman Wimberly**

SYNOPSIS

Requires Department of Agriculture to engage in public education campaign to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/19/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of, and the education of parents
2 and guardians regarding, school meals programs that are
3 operating, or that are subject to expansion, in the State, and
4 amending P.L.2019, c.307.

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

8
9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.307 (C.18A:33-27.1) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the
12 Department of Education, shall:

13 (1) develop and implement a public education campaign to
14 educate parents and guardians in the State about the various school
15 meals programs that are available for students in New Jersey, and
16 the availability of free and reduced price meals, under such
17 programs, for students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility
18 criteria; and

19 (2) develop promotional [material] materials for the ["School
20 Meal Program"] State's school meals programs, and provide such
21 promotional materials to every school district [with the "School
22 Meal Program" promotional material, which shall] in the State, for
23 distribution thereby to the parents and guardians of students who
24 are enrolled at schools in the district. The promotional materials
25 developed pursuant to this paragraph shall include, but need not be
26 limited to, pamphlets, presentation [material] materials, webinars,
27 and sample letters that schools may send to parents and guardians.

28 b. The ["School Meal Program"] public education campaign
29 and promotional [material] materials developed under subsection a.
30 of this section shall:

31 (1) highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and
32 importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal
33 School Breakfast Program, [and] the federal Summer Food Service
34 Program [,] and other similar summer meals programs, as well as
35 the State's breakfast after the bell programs, established pursuant to
36 section 1 of P.L.2014, c.66 (C.18A:33-11.1) or section 2 of
37 P.L.2018, c.25 (C.18A:33-11.3), the State's emergency meals
38 distribution program, established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2020,
39 c.6 (C.18A:33-27.2), and any new school meals programs that are
40 implemented in the State after the effective date of
41 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

42 (2) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to
43 all children for their general health and [their] success in school;

44 (3) emphasize and promote the ability of eligible students to
45 obtain free or reduced price meals under the State's school meals

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.

1 programs, and inform parents and guardians about the various ways
2 in which a student may be determined to be categorically eligible
3 for free meals under these programs, and the federal and State-level
4 income-based criteria that must be satisfied in order for a student to
5 obtain free or reduced price school meals, under these programs, on
6 the basis of annual household income;

7 (4) highlight and describe the application and determination
8 processes that are used, by schools and school districts, to certify
9 students for free or reduced price school meals;

10 (5) highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to
11 students and families in association with a student's subsidized or
12 unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and

13 (6) inform parents and guardians about the nature and extent of
14 any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing school
15 meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to, the nature
16 and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the
17 categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price
18 school meals under such programs.

19 (cf: P.L.2019, c.307, s.1)

20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

22

23

24

STATEMENT

25

26 Current law requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in
27 consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), to develop
28 pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school
29 meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every
30 school district in the State, for distribution to the parents and
31 guardians of students who are enrolled at schools in the district.
32 This bill would expand this existing promotional requirement by
33 requiring the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to additionally
34 develop and implement a formalized, Statewide public education
35 campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians,
36 throughout the State, about the various school meals program
37 options that are available to students in New Jersey.

38 The bill would additionally clarify that both the DOA's public
39 education campaign and its promotional materials are to:

40 (1) highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and
41 importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal
42 School Breakfast Program, the federal Summer Food Service
43 Program and other similar summer meals programs, as well as the
44 State's breakfast after the bell programs, the State's emergency
45 meals distribution program (established in response to the COVID-
46 19 pandemic), and any new school meals programs that are
47 implemented in the State after the bill's effective date;

- 1 (2) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to
2 all children for their general health and success in school;
- 3 (3) emphasize the ability of eligible students to obtain free or
4 reduced price meals under the State's school meals programs, and
5 inform parents and guardians about the various ways in which a
6 student may be determined to be categorically eligible for free
7 meals under these programs, and the federal and State-level income-
8 based criteria that must be satisfied in order for a student to obtain
9 free or reduced price school meals, under these programs, on the
10 basis of annual household income;
- 11 (4) highlight and describe the application and determination
12 processes that are used, by schools and school districts, to certify
13 students for free or reduced price school meals;
- 14 (5) highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to
15 students and families in association with a student's subsidized or
16 unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and
- 17 (6) inform parents and guardians about the nature and extent of
18 any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing school
19 meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to, the nature
20 and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the
21 categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price
22 school meals under such programs.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 2022

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2365.

Current law requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), to develop pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every school district in the State, for distribution to the parents and guardians of students who are enrolled at schools in the district. This bill would expand this existing promotional requirement by requiring the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to additionally develop and implement a formalized, Statewide public education campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians, throughout the State, about the various school meals program options that are available to students in New Jersey.

The bill would additionally clarify that both the DOA's public education campaign and its promotional materials are to:

(1) highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal School Breakfast Program, the federal Summer Food Service Program and other similar summer meals programs, as well as the State's breakfast after the bell programs, the State's emergency meals distribution program (established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic), and any new school meals programs that are implemented in the State after the bill's effective date;

(2) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to all children for their general health and success in school;

(3) emphasize the ability of eligible students to obtain free or reduced price meals under the State's school meals programs, and inform parents and guardians about the various ways in which a student may be determined to be categorically eligible for free meals under these programs, and the federal and State-level income-based criteria that must be satisfied in order for a student to obtain free or reduced price school meals, under these programs, on the basis of annual household income;

(4) highlight and describe the application and determination processes that are used, by schools and school districts, to certify students for free or reduced price school meals;

(5) highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to students and families in association with a student's subsidized or unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and

(6) inform parents and guardians about the nature and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing school meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to, the nature and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price school meals under such programs.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2365

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2022

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2365.

As amended, current law requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), to develop pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every school district in the State, for distribution to the parents and guardians of students who are enrolled at schools in the district. This bill would amend this law to instead require each food service vendor or food service management company that provides a food service to students in the State to: (1) develop and implement a public education campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians of students at schools served by the vendor or management company about the various school meals program options that are available to students in New Jersey and the availability of free and reduced price meals, thereunder, to students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility criteria; and (2) develop promotional materials for the State's school meals programs, and provide copies of the promotional materials to each school served by the vendor or management company, for distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school. A food service vendor or management company would be required to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the DOA, in developing the promotional materials required by the bill.

The bill would require the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information that is being presented by a food service vendor or food service management company as part of the educational campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, under the bill.

The bill would further specify that a food service vendor or management company's public education campaign and promotional materials are to:

(1) satisfy the standards, and comply with the guidelines established by the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, under the bill;

(2) highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal School Breakfast Program, the federal Summer Food Service Program and other similar summer meals programs, as well as the State's breakfast after the bell programs, the State's emergency meals distribution program (established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic), and any new school meals programs that are implemented in the State after the bill's effective date;

(3) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to all children for their general health and success in school;

(4) emphasize the ability of eligible students to obtain free or reduced price meals under the State's school meals programs, and inform parents and guardians about the various ways in which a student may be determined to be categorically eligible for free meals under these programs, and the federal and State-level income-based criteria that must be satisfied in order for a student to obtain free or reduced price school meals, under these programs, on the basis of annual household income;

(5) highlight and describe the application and determination processes that are used, by schools and school districts, to certify students for free or reduced price school meals;

(6) highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to students and families in association with a student's subsidized or unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and

(7) inform parents and guardians about the nature and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing school meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to, the nature and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price school meals under such programs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to require food service vendors and management companies (not the DOA and DOE, as was provided by existing law and the introduced bill) to engage in the public education campaigns and the development of school meals-related promotional materials, as required by the bill. The amendments further provide for each vendor or management company to provide the promotional materials to each school served thereby, for further distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students who are enrolled at the school. The amendments would require the vendor or management company to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the DOA, in developing the promotional materials.

The amendments would further require the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information that is

being presented by food service vendors and management companies as part of the educational campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, under the bill. Finally, the amendments would require food service vendors and management companies to comply with these standards and guidelines when implementing the public education campaigns and developing the promotional materials.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that the bill will result in one-time administrative cost increases to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to develop standards and guidelines that ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals information being presented by food service vendors and management companies in the public education campaign and promotional materials. The OLS notes that in developing the promotional materials, food service vendors and management companies are to utilize existing resources that have been made available by the State and the US Department of Agriculture.

School districts may potentially incur additional costs from increased administrative duties resulting from the bill, such as distributing the promotional materials to students' parents and guardians. These costs, if any, will be dependent upon the manner in which the school district decides to transmit the information to parents and guardians.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 27, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires school food vendors to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options.
- Type of Impact:** One-time increase in State costs; annual decrease in State expenditures; potential school district cost increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, school districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
One-time State Cost Increase	Indeterminate	---	---
State Expenditure Decrease	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Potential Local Cost Increase	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that the bill will result in one-time administrative cost increases to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Department of Education (DOE) to develop standards and guidelines that ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals information being presented by food service vendors and management companies in the public education campaign and promotional materials. The OLS determines that this requirement could be subsumed within existing staff duties.
- The OLS also notes that there will be a decrease in annual State costs by shifting the responsibility of providing promotional material from the State to food vendors and food management companies.
- School districts may potentially incur additional annual costs from increased administrative duties resulting from the bill, such as distributing the promotional materials to students' parents and guardians. These costs, if any, will be dependent upon the manner in which the school district decides to transmit the information to parents and guardians.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires each food service vendor or food service management company that provides a food service to students in the State to: (1) develop and implement a public education campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians of students at schools served by the vendor or management company about the various school meals program options that are available to students in New Jersey and the availability of free and reduced price meals to students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility criteria; and (2) develop promotional materials for the State's school meals programs, and provide copies of the promotional materials to each school served by the vendor or management company, for distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school. A food service vendor or management company would be required to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State DOA, in developing the promotional materials required by the bill.

Current law requires the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to develop pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every school district in the State, for distribution to the parents and guardians of students who are enrolled at schools in the district.

The bill would require the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information that is being presented by a food service vendor or food service management company as part of the educational campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, under the bill.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that the bill will result in one-time administrative cost increases to the DOA and the DOE to develop standards and guidelines that ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals information being presented by food service vendors and management companies in the public education campaign and promotional materials. The OLS determines that this requirement could be subsumed within existing staff duties.

The OLS also notes that there will be a decrease in annual State expenditures by shifting the responsibility of providing the promotional material from the State to food vendors and food management companies. Current law requires the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to develop pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every school district in the State, for distribution to the parents and guardians.

School districts may potentially incur additional costs from increased administrative duties resulting from the bill, such as distributing the promotional materials to students' parents and guardians. These costs, if any, will be dependent upon the manner in which the school district decides to transmit the information to parents and guardians.

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resources

*Analyst: Neha Patel
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2365

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2365 (1R).

As amended and reported, the bill amends current law to require each school food authority that provides a food service to public school students in the State to, in the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of the students of the public school served by the school food authority: (1) develop and implement a public education campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians of students at schools served by the school food authority about the various school meals program options that are available to students in New Jersey and the availability of free and reduced price meals, thereunder, for students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility criteria; and (2) develop promotional materials for the State's school meals programs, and provide copies of the promotional materials to each school served by the school food authority for distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school. A school food authority would be required to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (DOA), in developing the promotional materials required by the bill.

Under current law, the DOA, in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), is required to develop pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every school district in the State.

The bill requires the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information that is being presented by a school food authority as part of the educational campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, under the bill. The bill also requires the DOE to provide each school food authority with information concerning the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school that the school food authority serves, and to periodically, at least every five years, verify

the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school served by each school food authority. The bill further specifies that a school food authority's public education campaign and promotional materials are to comply with certain requirements outlined in the bill.

The bill defines "school food authority" as the school, school district, or third-party food service vendor, as applicable.

The committee amended the bill to require that public education campaign and promotional materials be provided in the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in the public school that each school food authority serves. The amendments also require that DOE provide each school food authority with information concerning the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school that the school food authority serves, and to periodically verify the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each public school served by each school food authority.

Finally, the amendments change references to "food service vendor and food service management company" to "school food authority" and define the term to mean the school, school district, or third-party food service vendor, as applicable.

As amended and reported, Assembly Bill No. 2365 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 1928, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2365 (2R).

Under current law, the DOA, in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), is required to develop pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every school district in the State.

The bill requires the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information that is being presented by a school food authority as part of the educational campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, under the bill. The bill also requires the DOE to provide each school food authority with information concerning the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school that the school food authority serves, and to periodically, at least every five years, verify the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school served by each school food authority. The bill further specifies that a school food authority's public education campaign and promotional materials are to comply with certain requirements outlined in the bill.

The bill defines "school food authority" as the school, school district, or third-party food service vendor, as applicable.

The committee amended the bill to require that public education campaign and promotional materials be provided in the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in the public school that each school food authority serves. The amendments also require that DOE provide each school food authority with information concerning the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school that the school food authority serves, and to periodically verify the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each public school served by each school food authority.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 2365 (2R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 1928 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the bill will result in indeterminate annual State expenditure increases due to the creation of the new Division of Minority and Women Business Development and position of State Chief Disparity Officer. The amount of the expenditure increases will depend on the salaries of the State Chief Disparity Officer and employees of the division, and costs to establish and operate the division office.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 28, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires school food authorities to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State cost savings; one-time State expenditure increase; potential annual local cost increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and certain school districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
One-Time State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate	---	---
Annual State Cost Savings	Up to \$75,000	Up to \$75,000	Up to \$75,000
Potential Local Cost Increase	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will provide annual cost savings to the State by shifting the responsibility for developing and implementing a public education campaign for available school meals programs in the State and developing related promotional material to school food authorities. These are currently the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. The anticipated State savings is \$75,000 annually.
- Schools and school districts, which can be school food authorities under the bill, may incur additional annual costs from increased administrative duties resulting from the bill such as developing and implementing a public education program and developing and distributing promotional materials for the State's school meals programs. The bill specifies that school food authorities are to use existing resources of the federal and State government in developing their educational materials and so costs, if any, should be marginal.

- The State will experience a one-time increase in administrative workload to develop standards and guidelines to ensure uniformity and accuracy of information regarding school meals programs being presented to parents and guardians by school food authorities. This additional workload can likely be performed by current staff using existing resources.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The bill requires each school food authority that provides a food service to public school students in the State to, in the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of the students of the public school served by the school food authority: (1) develop and implement a public education campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians of students at schools served by the school food authority about the various school meals program options that are available to students in New Jersey and the availability of free and reduced price meals, thereunder, for students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility criteria; and (2) develop promotional materials for the State's school meals programs, and provide copies of the promotional materials to each school served by the school food authority for distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school. A school food authority would be required to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the DOA, in developing the promotional materials required by the bill. The bill further specifies that a school food authority's public education campaign and promotional materials are to comply with certain requirements outlined in the bill. The bill defines "school food authority" as the school, school district, or third-party food service vendor, as applicable.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill will provide annual cost savings to the State by shifting the responsibility for developing and implementing a public education campaign for available school meals programs in the State and developing related promotional material to school food authorities. These are currently the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. The anticipated State savings is \$75,000 annually.

Schools and school districts, which can be school food authorities under the bill, may incur additional annual costs from increased administrative duties resulting from the bill such as developing and implementing a public education program and developing and distributing promotional materials for the State's school meals programs. The bill specifies that school food authorities are to use existing resources of the federal and State government in developing their educational materials and so costs, if any, should be marginal.

The State will experience a one-time increase in administrative workload to develop standards and guidelines to ensure uniformity and accuracy of information regarding school meals programs being presented to parents and guardians by school food authorities. This additional workload can likely be performed by current staff using existing resources.

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resources

*Analyst: Neha Patel
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 1928

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOA to engage in public education campaign to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of, and the education of parents
2 and guardians regarding, school meals programs that are
3 operating, or that are subject to expansion, in the State, and
4 amending P.L.2019, c.307.

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

8
9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.307 (C.18A:33-27.1) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the
12 Department of Education, shall:

13 (1) develop and implement a public education campaign to
14 educate parents and guardians in the State about the various school
15 meals programs that are available for students in New Jersey, and
16 the availability of free and reduced price meals, under such
17 programs, for students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility
18 criteria; and

19 (2) develop promotional [material] materials for the ["School
20 Meal Program"] State's school meals programs, and provide such
21 promotional materials to every school district [with the "School
22 Meal Program" promotional material, which shall] in the State, for
23 distribution thereby to the parents and guardians of students who
24 are enrolled at schools in the district. The promotional materials
25 developed pursuant to this paragraph shall include, but need not be
26 limited to, pamphlets, presentation [material] materials, webinars,
27 and sample letters that schools may send to parents and guardians.

28 b. The ["School Meal Program"] public education campaign
29 and promotional [material] materials developed under subsection a.
30 of this section shall:

31 (1) highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and
32 importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal
33 School Breakfast Program, [and] the federal Summer Food Service
34 Program [,] and other similar summer meals programs, as well as
35 the State's breakfast after the bell programs, established pursuant to
36 section 1 of P.L.2014, c.66 (C.18A:33-11.1) or section 2 of
37 P.L.2018, c.25 (C.18A:33-11.3), the State's emergency meals
38 distribution program, established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2020,
39 c.6 (C.18A:33-27.2), and any new school meals programs that are
40 implemented in the State after the effective date of
41 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

42 (2) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to
43 all children for their general health and [their] success in school;

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.

1 (3) emphasize and promote the ability of eligible students to
 2 obtain free or reduced price meals under the State’s school meals
 3 programs, and inform parents and guardians about the various ways
 4 in which a student may be determined to be categorically eligible
 5 for free meals under these programs, and the federal and State-level
 6 income-based criteria that must be satisfied in order for a student to
 7 obtain free or reduced price school meals, under these programs, on
 8 the basis of annual household income;

9 (4) highlight and describe the application and determination
 10 processes that are used, by schools and school districts, to certify
 11 students for free or reduced price school meals;

12 (5) highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to
 13 students and families in association with a student’s subsidized or
 14 unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and

15 (6) inform parents and guardians about the nature and extent of
 16 any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing school
 17 meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to, the nature
 18 and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the
 19 categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price
 20 school meals under such programs.

21 (cf: P.L.2019, c.307, s.1)

22
 23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
 24
 25

26 STATEMENT

27
 28 Current law requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA), in
 29 consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), to develop
 30 pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State’s school
 31 meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every
 32 school district in the State, for distribution to the parents and
 33 guardians of students who are enrolled at schools in the district.
 34 This bill would expand this existing promotional requirement by
 35 requiring the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to additionally
 36 develop and implement a formalized, Statewide public education
 37 campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians,
 38 throughout the State, about the various school meals program
 39 options that are available to students in New Jersey.

40 The bill would additionally clarify that both the DOA’s public
 41 education campaign and its promotional materials are to:

42 (1) highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and
 43 importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal
 44 School Breakfast Program, the federal Summer Food Service
 45 Program and other similar summer meals programs, as well as the
 46 State’s breakfast after the bell programs, the State’s emergency
 47 meals distribution program (established in response to the COVID-

- 1 19 pandemic), and any new school meals programs that are
2 implemented in the State after the bill's effective date;
- 3 (2) emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious meal to
4 all children for their general health and success in school;
- 5 (3) emphasize the ability of eligible students to obtain free or
6 reduced price meals under the State's school meals programs, and
7 inform parents and guardians about the various ways in which a
8 student may be determined to be categorically eligible for free
9 meals under these programs, and the federal and State-level income-
10 based criteria that must be satisfied in order for a student to obtain
11 free or reduced price school meals, under these programs, on the
12 basis of annual household income;
- 13 (4) highlight and describe the application and determination
14 processes that are used, by schools and school districts, to certify
15 students for free or reduced price school meals;
- 16 (5) highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to
17 students and families in association with a student's subsidized or
18 unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and
- 19 (6) inform parents and guardians about the nature and extent of
20 any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing school
21 meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to, the nature
22 and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the
23 categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1928

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1928, with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, the bill amends current law to require each school food authority that provides a food service to public school students in the State to, in the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of the students of the public school served by the school food authority: (1) develop and implement a public education campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians of students at schools served by the school food authority about the various school meals program options that are available to students in New Jersey and the availability of free and reduced price meals, thereunder, for students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility criteria; and (2) develop promotional materials for the State's school meals programs, and provide copies of the promotional materials to each school served by the school food authority for distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school. A school food authority would be required to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (DOA), in developing the promotional materials required by the bill.

Under current law, the DOA, in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), is required to develop pamphlets and other promotional materials for the State's school meals programs and provide such promotional materials to every school district in the State.

The bill requires the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information that is being presented by a school food authority as part of the educational campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, under the bill. The bill also requires the DOE to provide each school food authority with information concerning the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school that the school food authority serves, and to periodically, at least every five years, verify the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of

students in each school served by each school food authority. The bill further specifies that a school food authority's public education campaign and promotional materials are to comply with certain requirements outlined in the bill.

The bill defines "school food authority" as the school, school district, or third-party food service vendor, as applicable.

The committee amended the bill to require school food authorities (not the DOA and DOE, as was provided by existing law and the introduced bill) to engage in the public education campaigns and the development of school meals-related promotional materials, as required by the bill. The amendments define "school food authority" to mean the school, the school district, or third-party vendor, as applicable.

The amendments further require each school food authority to provide the promotional materials to each school served thereby, for further distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students who are enrolled at the school. The amendments require the school food authority to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the DOA, in developing the promotional materials.

The amendments further require the DOA, in consultation with the DOE, to adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of school meals-related information that is being presented by school food authorities as part of the educational campaigns conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, under the bill. The amendments require school food authorities to comply with these standards and guidelines when implementing the public education campaigns and developing the promotional materials.

Finally, the amendments require that public education campaign and promotional materials be provided in the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in the public school that each school food authority serves. The amendments also require that DOE provide each school food authority with information concerning the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each school that the school food authority serves, and to periodically verify the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students in each public school served by each school food authority.

As amended and reported, Senate Bill No. 1928 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2365 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1928

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1928 (1R).

This bill amends section 3 of P.L.2019, c.300 (C.46:8-49.2), to expand the definition of landlords required to provide a receipt for a rent cash payment made by a tenant. This bill expands the definition of a “landlord” to include any person who rents or leases or offers to rent or lease, for a term of at least one month, one or more dwelling units, except dwelling units, hotels, motels or other guest houses serving transient or seasonal tenants.

Under current statute, a landlord includes any person who rents or leases or offers to rent or lease, for a term of at least one month, dwelling units, except dwelling units in rental premises containing not more than two such units, or in owner-occupied premises of not more than three dwelling units, or in hotels, motels, or other guest houses serving transient or seasonal guests.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1928 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2365 (2R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the bill will result in indeterminate annual State expenditure increases due to the creation of the new Division of Minority and Women Business Development and position of State Chief Disparity Officer. The amount of the expenditure increases will depend on the salaries of the State Chief Disparity Officer and employees of the division, and costs to establish and operate the division office.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1928 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 28, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires school food authorities to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State cost savings; one-time State expenditure increase; potential annual local cost increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and certain school districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
One-Time State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate	---	---
Annual State Cost Savings	Up to \$75,000	Up to \$75,000	Up to \$75,000
Potential Local Cost Increase	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will provide annual cost savings to the State by shifting the responsibility for developing and implementing a public education campaign for available school meals programs in the State and developing related promotional material to school food authorities. These are currently the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. The anticipated State savings is \$75,000 annually.
- Schools and school districts, which can be school food authorities under the bill, may incur additional annual costs from increased administrative duties resulting from the bill such as developing and implementing a public education program and developing and distributing promotional materials for the State's school meals programs. The bill specifies that school food authorities are to use existing resources of the federal and State government in developing their educational materials and so costs, if any, should be marginal.

- The State will experience a one-time increase in administrative workload to develop standards and guidelines to ensure uniformity and accuracy of information regarding school meals programs being presented to parents and guardians by school food authorities. This additional workload can likely be performed by current staff using existing resources.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The bill requires each school food authority that provides a food service to public school students in the State to, in the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of the students of the public school served by the school food authority: (1) develop and implement a public education campaign that is designed to educate parents and guardians of students at schools served by the school food authority about the various school meals program options that are available to students in New Jersey and the availability of free and reduced price meals, thereunder, for students who satisfy federal or State-level eligibility criteria; and (2) develop promotional materials for the State's school meals programs, and provide copies of the promotional materials to each school served by the school food authority for distribution, by school staff, to the parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school. A school food authority would be required to utilize existing resources, made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the DOA, in developing the promotional materials required by the bill. The bill further specifies that a school food authority's public education campaign and promotional materials are to comply with certain requirements outlined in the bill. The bill defines "school food authority" as the school, school district, or third-party food service vendor, as applicable.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill will provide annual cost savings to the State by shifting the responsibility for developing and implementing a public education campaign for available school meals programs in the State and developing related promotional material to school food authorities. These are currently the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. The anticipated State savings is \$75,000 annually.

Schools and school districts, which can be school food authorities under the bill, may incur additional annual costs from increased administrative duties resulting from the bill such as developing and implementing a public education program and developing and distributing promotional materials for the State's school meals programs. The bill specifies that school food authorities are to use existing resources of the federal and State government in developing their educational materials and so costs, if any, should be marginal.

The State will experience a one-time increase in administrative workload to develop standards and guidelines to ensure uniformity and accuracy of information regarding school meals programs being presented to parents and guardians by school food authorities. This additional workload can likely be performed by current staff using existing resources.

Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resources

*Analyst: Neha Patel
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

This Week in NJ - September 9, 2022

09/9/2022



Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Combat Food Insecurity Among New Jersey Students

Governor Phil Murphy signed two bills that will help combat food insecurity among students across the state. The first bill, A2368/S1677, which was sponsored by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, requires New Jersey schools to provide free breakfasts and lunches to students from working-class and middle-income families. The second bill, A2365/S1928, requires school food authorities to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents about existing and expanding school meals program options. Together, the laws will help ensure equitable access to resources that simultaneously benefit children's nutrition and support work families' financial stability.

"Consistent access to healthy meals is a fundamental human right, a fact that became all too clear for New Jersey families as they struggled to make ends meet amid a global pandemic," **said Governor Murphy**. "We've fought hard alongside our students' parents to provide our children with the tools they need to grow and excel, and today we demonstrate our intent to double those efforts in the battle against food insecurity. Crucially, by launching extensive public awareness campaigns, we will work to ensure that free, nutritious meals are not only available, but easily accessible, for every New Jersey student."

[READ MORE](#)

Governor Murphy and DOE Announce Over \$26 Million to Expand High-Quality Preschool in 27 School Districts

Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) announced that 27 school districts will receive Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) to establish or expand access to high-quality preschool programs in the 2022-2023 school year. The over \$26 million, which was allocated in the FY2023 Budget, ensures that nearly 2,150 additional three- and four-year-old children will have access to a preschool classroom by increasing New Jersey's preschool seats to nearly 70,000. This announcement builds on Governor Murphy's long-term commitment to early education and the eventual goal of providing universal preschool to every three- and four-year-old in New Jersey.

"We know that providing children with access to preschool programs creates short and long term educational and economic benefits for families," said **Governor Phil Murphy**. "When we invest in preschool education, we also invest in our youth and in the future success of the State of New Jersey for decades to come. Today's announcement is another step toward universal preschool and a brighter future for New Jersey's youngest learners."

"I am excited to work with the 27 school districts receiving this funding to create and expand their community's preschool programs," said **Dr. Angelica Allen McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education**. "Governor Murphy's continued budget allowance for high-quality preschool allows many young children an opportunity to attend preschool and reap the benefits of starting school earlier."



[READ MORE](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Bipartisan Bill Establishing Black Heritage Trail in New Jersey

In a room at the historic City of Newark's Public Library, surrounded by state and local officials, as well as activists, Governor Phil Murphy signed bipartisan bill A2677. The bill requires the New Jersey Historical Commission to establish a Black Heritage Trail to promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture in the State. The Black Heritage Trail will highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that connect the stories of Black life and resiliency in the State.



"I am honored to sign this bill, establishing a Black Heritage Trail in New Jersey. However, our work does not stop here," **said Governor Murphy.** "Celebrating and commemorating Black history is not something that we should relegate to only the month of February or to Juneteenth. Black history is New Jersey history. It must be honored every day of the year."

In January 2021, the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism within the Department of State launched the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, which invites visitors and residents to "discover the remarkable achievements and legacies of New Jersey's African American scholars, famous figures and everyday citizens who shaped the State's history for nearly four centuries." The New Jersey Black Heritage Trail will highlight landmarks, heritage sites, museums and modern-day attractions, which will be featured on downloadable three-day trip itineraries and map views. Under the bill, which appropriates \$ 1 million to the Department of State to establish the historical markers, the Historical Commission must give special consideration to sites that are in close geographic proximity, thematically linked by surrounding arts and other tourism destinations, or recommended by the New Jersey Black Cultural and Heritage Initiative Foundation.

[READ MORE](#)

New Jersey Students Enter First School Year With K-12 Climate Change Education

In June of 2020 First Lady Tammy Murphy announced that the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted her initiative to make New Jersey the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 academic standards. As thousands of New Jersey students enter a new school year, the incorporation of climate change education for K-12 schools begins. This first of its kind curriculum will prepare and propel New Jersey students to the top of the ranks for the thousands of green economy jobs that will be made available in the future.

"New Jersey has the number one public education system in the nation, and our teachers and school administrators are well equipped to prepare our future climate change leaders to take on the climate crisis," **said Governor Murphy.** "Our children are our future, and the lessons New Jersey students will learn with this new curriculum will bring us one step closer to building our green

economy and reaching and sustaining 100 percent clean energy in New Jersey by 2050.”

“Today marks the first day of the highly anticipated climate change education curriculum in our K-12 school systems, and I cannot be more thrilled about the future for our students and for our state,” **said First Lady Tammy Murphy.** “New Jersey will be on the forefront of the climate movement, and these new standards will give our children the tools necessary to combat the effects of climate change. We are building the world’s next generation of climate literate leaders, including policymakers, historians, teachers, and more, who will discover new ways to address the climate crisis.”

“New Jersey will continue to be a national leader in preparing students to address issues related to climate change in the next decade,” **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education.** “Our standards provide students with the tools to learn how climate change impacts our society, but how to also work collaboratively with peers and communities to address the issue of climate change.”



[READ MORE](#)

First Lady Tammy Murphy Highlights Significant Investments in Maternal and Infant Health Initiatives

First Lady Tammy Murphy hosted a roundtable discussion to highlight the investments made in maternal and infant health initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) budget. The First Lady’s initiative, Nurture NJ, aims to reduce New Jersey’s maternal mortality by fifty percent over five years and eliminate racial disparities in birth outcomes. Since its inception in 2019, Nurture NJ has made significant



strides in addressing maternal and infant health care in the state of New Jersey. The FY2023 budget includes over \$58 million to support Nurture NJ programs and policies.

“These necessary investments will continue to address and combat the shocking numbers our state holds in maternal and infant mortality rates and racial disparities in health care,” **said Governor Murphy**. “The health of our mothers and babies is of the utmost importance to each of the First Lady and me, as well as this Administration as a whole. Strengthening our maternal and infant health care systems will help us continue to build a stronger, fairer, and more equitable New Jersey for all families who call our great state their home.”

“I am so grateful for the funding allocated to Nurture NJ in this year’s budget, which will allow us to continue our work transforming our state into the safest and most equitable in the nation to deliver and raise a baby,” **said First Lady Tammy Murphy**. “Given New Jersey has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the nation exacerbated by unacceptable racial disparities for our mothers and our babies, we feel it is our moral imperative to continue this fight. I am thrilled to see Nurture NJ build upon the significant progress we have already made, better support mothers and babies during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives, and, through innovative policymaking, become the national gold standard for maternal and infant health.”

[READ MORE](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Combat Food Insecurity Among New Jersey Students

09/9/2022

SOUTH AMBOY – Governor Phil Murphy signed two bills today that will help combat food insecurity among students across the state. The first bill, A2368/S1677, which was sponsored by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, requires New Jersey schools to provide free breakfasts and lunches to students from working-class and middle-income families. The second bill, A2365/S1928, requires school food authorities to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents about existing and expanding school meals program options. Together, the laws will help ensure equitable access to resources that simultaneously benefit children’s nutrition and support work families’ financial stability.

“Consistent access to healthy meals is a fundamental human right, a fact that became all too clear for New Jersey families as they struggled to make ends meet amid a global pandemic,” **said Governor Murphy**. “We’ve fought hard alongside our students’ parents to provide our children with the tools they need to grow and excel, and today we demonstrate our intent to double those efforts in the battle against food insecurity. Crucially, by launching extensive public awareness campaigns, we will work to ensure that free, nutritious meals are not only available, but easily accessible, for every New Jersey student.

“No student should have to go hungry at school. We know that students perform better on tests and retain more information when they receive the nutrition they need, and both of these bills will make sure that students in New Jersey are prepared to succeed in school,” **said U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.** “I applaud Governor Murphy, Assembly Speaker Coughlin and the New Jersey Legislature for their leadership on this issue and their support for our schools, teachers, and students in New Jersey.

“The Act is critical to meeting the needs of many working families and puts us on a direct path to feeding breakfast and lunch to every child who needs it,” **said Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin**. “Millions of New Jersey residents experienced unemployment during the pandemic meaning more faced food insecurity as a result, many are still struggling to keep up with their bills. Helping keep money in people’s pockets, while ensuring more New Jersey students and their families can rely on access to the free school meals they need for success, has never been more important.”

“Food insecurity for New Jersey’s families is an issue that has become that much more evident since the pandemic,” **said Senator Teresa Ruiz**. “For many children throughout New Jersey, the meals they receive in school are their only source of food each day. That is why universal free lunch at school is a goal our state should strive to make a reality and today we take a step closer in order to help all struggling families which is not specific exclusively to low income ones. By expanding the free lunch program to more children, we help more New Jersey families foster a healthy academic experience for all of our students.”

“As we work to expand the assistance available to families struggling with food insecurity, many programs continue to be underutilized,” **said Senator Vin Gopal**. “This legislation will help to increase enrollment in the free school meals program, ensuring we are reaching as many eligible students as possible. No child should be expected to learn on an empty stomach.”

“Given the sharp increase in the cost of living, food insecurity is a major concern for many families around the state. Data has long shown a correlation between having access to nutritious meals and the ability of schoolchildren to learn and maintain good health,” **said Senator Joe Vitale, Chair of the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee**. “This initiative will help alleviate some of the economic burden and insecurity for working families across New Jersey so they know they can afford to put meals on the table for their family members.”

“Ensuring children have access to proper nutrition is critical not only to their overall health but also their academic success,” **said Assemblywoman Pamela R. Lampitt**. “As many working families continue to feel the financial toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be difficult at times to put food on the table. By expanding eligibility for free breakfast and lunch programs, we will provide families with the support they need in times of financial uncertainty and helps to ensure that no student is forced to go hungry.”

"Ensuring they have a healthy start in the morning and are nourished throughout the school day sets our children up for academic success," **said Assemblywoman Mila M. Jasey.** "By expanding the requirements for these free school meal programs, we can reach more children around the state and assist more families in their time of need."

"We have done great work to ensure that students throughout the state have school meal options. Along with the work that's been done to create these meal options, it is also very important to make sure that families are aware of the existing and expanding meal programs they can choose from. Giving families choices will help us to guarantee children are accessing healthy meals options during the school year," **said Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblyman Giblin, and Assemblywoman Jaffer.**

"As a former teacher, I know the importance of having well-nourished students in class that have the energy to learn. Too often students fall behind because they are too tired to participate," **said South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry.** "With these two bills, the Governor and the state legislature continue to show that they are working for all of the citizens of New Jersey. On behalf of South Amboy and our school district, I want to thank Governor Murphy, Speaker Coughlin and the combined state legislature for passing these bills and giving our students a better chance for a better education, for our students are our future."

"Today's signing of Bills A2368 and A2365 places into motion the ability for schools to nourish the minds and bodies of scholars from middle-income families. South Amboy Public Schools is dedicated to our vision of ensuring that equity exists for all scholars regardless of any factor that may otherwise deem access to quality education and other daily needs beyond their reach. Providing access to healthy and affordable food enables scholars to be fueled and ready to learn. For the past few months, our Board of Education President, Patrick Walsh, and I have been discussing ways to infuse Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into the fabric of our district and have referenced his graduate research that, in part, reveals that social factors such as a student's race and socio-economic status directly impacts student health outcomes. Not only does the bills signed, today, by Governor Murphy support these discussions but it puts into action across the state of New Jersey our district's vision and goal of equitably expanding access to all resources for all scholars inclusive of critical food safety net programs. The work of Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy and other legislators have leveled the playing field for all scholars and have provided schools with a means to nourish the whole child," **said South Amboy Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frederick D. Williams.**