

ASSEMBLY, No. 679

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Encourages school districts and nonpublic schools to increase student participation in school breakfast programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/21/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning school breakfast programs and supplementing
2 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. Each school district or nonpublic school participating in
8 the federal School Breakfast Program is encouraged to increase the
9 number of students participating in the program, especially through
10 incorporation of school breakfast in the first-period classroom.

11 b. The Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the
12 Department of Education, shall make every effort to assist school
13 districts and nonpublic schools in increasing the participation rate
14 of students in the school breakfast program, especially through
15 incorporation of school breakfast in the first-period classroom.

16 c. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the
17 Department of Education, shall provide guidance and support to
18 school districts and nonpublic schools in the planning,
19 implementation or modification of a school breakfast program
20 which would increase the participation rate of all students,
21 especially income-eligible students, in the school district or
22 nonpublic school.

23 d. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the
24 Department of Education, shall prepare and issue an annual report
25 to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
26 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on the number and percentage of
27 students participating in a school breakfast program and the format
28 used for providing breakfast, for each school district and nonpublic
29 school.

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill encourages school districts and nonpublic schools to
37 increase the number of students participating in the federal School
38 Breakfast Program. The bill requires the Department of
39 Agriculture, in conjunction with the Department of Education, to
40 make every effort to assist school districts and nonpublic schools in
41 increasing the participation rate of students in the school breakfast
42 program, especially through incorporation of school breakfast in the
43 first-period classroom. The Department of Agriculture, in
44 consultation with the Department of Education, is also required to
45 prepare and issue an annual report to the Governor and the
46 Legislature on the number and percentage of students participating

1 in a school breakfast program, and the format used for providing
2 breakfast, for each school district and nonpublic school.
3 Currently, the vast majority of New Jersey school districts serve
4 breakfast to a fraction of eligible children. According to the Food
5 Research and Action Center, New Jersey ranks 46th nationwide for
6 its participation rate in the school breakfast program, and the center
7 estimates that New Jersey districts would collect roughly \$21.7
8 million more annually from the federal government if schools
9 increase student participation so that 60 percent of students who
10 receive school lunch also get breakfast at school. If New Jersey
11 reached this benchmark, about 90,000 additional schoolchildren
12 would receive a healthy breakfast at the start of their school day.
13 According to experts, the percentage of students that participate in
14 school breakfast increases when breakfast is served in the classroom
15 after the start of school (i.e., “after the bell”). Research shows that
16 school breakfast increases attendance and decreases tardiness,
17 improves academic performance both in class and on standardized
18 tests, improves attentiveness, and reduces emotional and behavioral
19 problems among students from all backgrounds.