

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2017**

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H.P. 1347

House of Representatives, December 5, 2025

### **An Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition**

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Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough.

1       **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2       **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A,  
3       §44, is amended to read:

4       **§6601-A. Free or reduced-price school meals; Internet-based school meal**  
5       **applications**

6       The department ~~shall~~ may contract for the development and implementation of an  
7       Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch  
8       Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210 and the School Breakfast Program  
9       under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 220 or otherwise make available to public  
10      schools an Internet-based application for those programs. The department ~~shall~~ may make  
11      available to public schools ~~the an~~ Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals  
12      developed under this section on ~~the department's~~ a publicly accessible website. The  
13      department shall make ~~the any~~ Internet-based application developed pursuant to this section  
14      in an understandable and uniform format and, to the maximum extent practicable, in a  
15      language that parents and legal guardians can understand. A public school may make ~~the~~  
16      an Internet-based application available for school meal applications on the public school's  
17      publicly accessible website. All public schools shall continue to distribute paper  
18      applications for school meals to all students. A public school is ~~solely~~ responsible for  
19      processing that school's online applications. Data submitted through ~~the an~~ Internet-based  
20      application may not be visible to the department and must be transmitted directly to the  
21      applicable public school. All public schools shall accept data submitted through ~~the an~~  
22      Internet-based application.

23      **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §1, is  
24      amended to read:

25      F. Except as provided under paragraph G, a school administrative unit with a public  
26      school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch  
27      during the preceding school year shall operate an alternative breakfast delivery service  
28      that provides breakfast after the start of the school day and before any lunch period in  
29      the school begins for students at that public school. ~~A school administrative unit with~~  
30      ~~a public school in which at least 70% of students who are eligible for free and~~  
31      ~~reduced-price meals under paragraph A participate in the breakfast program under~~  
32      ~~paragraph B is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.~~

33      The department shall publish annually, by July 1, 2020 and every July 1st thereafter,  
34      on its publicly accessible website, information regarding schools required to comply  
35      with and schools exempt from this paragraph in the preceding school year, including,  
36      but not limited to, the name of the school, any alternative breakfast delivery service  
37      operated, free and reduced-price breakfast participation rate and the financial impact  
38      of the program on the school nutrition budget.

39      **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶G**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §2, is  
40      amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph.

41      **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 11**, as amended, is repealed.

## SUMMARY

This bill amends provisions of education law governing applications for free or reduced-price school meals by removing the requirement that the Department of Education contract for the development and implementation of an Internet-based application for such school meals, instead simply permitting the department to take these actions. It also changes requirements for making the application available on the department's publicly accessible website and instead permits the department to make the application available on a publicly accessible website. It also removes the requirement that a public school is solely responsible for processing that school's online applications.

The bill modifies provisions governing alternative breakfast delivery service in schools by removing an exemption applying to certain school administrative units and removing the requirement that the department adopt rules related to the alternative breakfast delivery service, including rules establishing procedures to track health and academic outcomes of students and schools that participate in the service and schools' annual increase in participation in the service.

The bill repeals a provision of education law governing access to food, collection of student meal debt and use of food as discipline in schools.