

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAJORITY

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 853, L.D. 2064, "An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6603-A is enacted to read:

§6603-A. Early childhood nutrition grant program

The department shall create and administer, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, a grant program to provide grants to school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack in accordance with this section.

1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "off-site public preschool program" means a public preschool program offered by a public school in the State in partnership with a community provider that is not located on the site of a public school and includes, but is not limited to, a public preschool program offered at a private child care facility.

2. Eligibility. After consulting with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, the department shall adopt rules to establish eligibility standards and requirements for participation in the grant program. Eligibility standards and requirements must align with rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services for the licensing of child care facilities, including, but not limited to, child care centers, nursery schools and small child care facilities. Eligibility standards and requirements must include, but are not limited to:

A. A requirement that the off-site public preschool program meet the basic approval standards for public preschools adopted by the department;

B. A requirement that the off-site public preschool program provide food that meets the nutritional standards developed for child care centers as provided in section 6602

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1           and pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 1766 and administered by the United  
 2           States Department of Agriculture, child and adult food care program;  
 3           C. Requirements for the eligibility of school administrative units partnering with  
 4           licensed child care programs for the delivery of special education services for children  
 5           eligible under Part B, Section 619 as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-D; and  
 6           D. A requirement that a memorandum of understanding between the school  
 7           administrative unit and the off-site public preschool program provider describe the  
 8           process by which meals will be delivered and reimbursed.  
 9           Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
 10          chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11          3. Awards. Grants awarded by the department pursuant to this section are governed  
 12          as follows.

13          A. The amount of a grant is limited to the total annual per-student reimbursement rate  
 14          for the National School Lunch Program established in 7 Code of Federal Regulations,  
 15          Part 210.

16          B. In addition to a grant under paragraph A, an eligible school administrative unit that  
 17          is partnering with an off-site public preschool program may apply for an additional  
 18          grant of no more than \$10,000 for infrastructure improvements, including, but not  
 19          limited to, transportation or delivery of meals, to allow the off-site public preschool  
 20          program to provide breakfast, lunch and a snack.

21          **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 22          allocations are made.

23          **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

24          **School Finance and Operations Z078**

25          Initiative: Provides funding to establish 2 Education Specialist II positions and related All  
 26          Other costs for a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into  
 27          agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in  
 28          those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

29 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
30          Personal Services	\$0	\$217,430
31          All Other	\$0	\$498,656
32		
33          GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$716,086

34          **School Finance and Operations Z078**

35          Initiative: Provides one-time funding for start-up grant funding to eligible school  
 36          administrative units that require infrastructure improvements in order to provide meals.

37 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
38          All Other	\$0	\$150,000
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40          GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$150,000

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<b>EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$866,086</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$866,086</b>

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill. The amendment provides that the Department of Education must administer the early childhood nutrition grant program and clarifies the types of public preschool programs that are eligible for a grant. The amendment also requires that an eligible public preschool program must meet certain nutritional standards developed for child care centers and that the eligibility standards developed by the department must align with Department of Health and Human Services standards for child care centers. The amendment also requires that eligibility standards for the grant program must include eligibility for school administrative units partnering with licensed child care programs for the delivery of special education services for children with disabilities.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2064

LR 2904(02)

## An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"(S.568)  
 Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs  
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$866,086	\$726,958	\$736,006
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$866,086	\$726,958	\$736,006

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill requires the Department of Education (department) to create and administer, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, a grant program to provide students in off-site public preschool programs with breakfast, lunch, and a snack. The bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations totaling \$866,086 in fiscal year 2026-27 to the Department of Education (department), including \$217,430 in Personal Services costs for two Education Specialist II positions to support the grant program, \$18,656 in All Other costs for overhead for these two positions, and \$480,000 in ongoing grant funding to eligible school administrative units for meal costs, estimated at \$1200 per student annually for 400 students. The bill also includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$150,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to the department for startup grant funding to eligible school administrative units that require infrastructure improvements in order to provide these meals.

Any additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.