

Senate File 58 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 58

BY WEINER, DOTZLER, DONAHUE,
WINCKLER, CELSI, BLAKE,
TRONE GARRIOTT, KNOX,
BENNETT, TOWNSEND, STAED,
PETERSEN, QUIRMBACH, WAHLS,
and BISIGNANO

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school lunch and breakfast programs provided
2 by school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter
3 schools, and innovation zone schools, making appropriations,
4 and including effective date provisions.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *0t.* Be subject to and comply with the
4 requirements of section 283A.6 relating to free school lunch and
5 breakfast programs in the same manner as a school district.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
7 by adding the following new paragraph:

8 NEW PARAGRAPH. *r.* Be subject to and comply with the
9 requirements of section 283A.6 relating to free school lunch and
10 breakfast programs in the same manner as a school district.

11 Sec. 3. Section 283A.2, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. A school district shall operate or provide for the
14 operation of lunch programs at all attendance centers in the
15 district. A Unless required under section 283A.6, a school
16 district may operate or provide for the operation of school
17 breakfast programs at all attendance centers in the district, or
18 provide access to a school breakfast program at an alternative
19 site to students who wish to participate in a school breakfast
20 program. The programs shall provide students with nutritionally
21 adequate meals and shall be operated in compliance with the rules
22 of the state board of education and pertinent federal law and
23 regulation. The school lunch program shall be provided for all
24 students in each district who attend public school four or more
25 hours each school day and wish to participate in a school lunch
26 program. School districts may provide school breakfast and lunch
27 programs for other students.

28 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **283A.6 Free school lunch and breakfast**
29 **programs.**

30 1. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
31 June 30, 2026, each school district described in chapter 274,
32 accredited nonpublic school, charter school organized under
33 chapter 256E, and charter school or innovation zone school
34 organized under chapter 256F shall operate a program under which
35 breakfasts and lunches are served to students in attendance

1 at no charge to the student or the student's family if the
2 student's family has a family income that is less than or equal
3 to three hundred percent of the federal poverty level as defined
4 by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published
5 by the United States department of health and human services.
6 Meals served pursuant to this subsection shall be nutritionally
7 adequate meals. This subsection is repealed July 1, 2026.

8 2. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending
9 June 30, 2027, each school district described in chapter 274,
10 accredited nonpublic school, charter school organized under
11 chapter 256E, and charter school or innovation zone school
12 organized under chapter 256F shall operate a program under which
13 breakfasts and lunches are served to students in attendance
14 at no charge to the student or the student's family if the
15 student's family has a family income that is less than or equal
16 to four hundred percent of the federal poverty level as defined
17 by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published
18 by the United States department of health and human services.
19 Meals served pursuant to this subsection shall be nutritionally
20 adequate meals. This subsection is repealed July 1, 2027.

21 3. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and for each
22 fiscal year thereafter, each school district described in chapter
23 274, accredited nonpublic school, charter school organized under
24 chapter 256E, and charter school or innovation zone school
25 organized under chapter 256F shall operate a program under which
26 breakfasts and lunches are served to students in attendance at
27 no charge to the student or the student's family. Meals served
28 pursuant to this subsection shall be nutritionally adequate
29 meals.

30 4. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and for each
31 fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the general
32 fund of the state to the department of education an amount
33 necessary to make the payments to school districts described
34 in chapter 274, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools
35 organized under chapter 256E, and charter schools and innovation

1 zone schools organized under chapter 256F necessary to cover the
2 costs of providing school lunches and school breakfasts pursuant
3 to this section that are not covered by any Act of Congress and
4 appropriated to the state of Iowa for use in connection with
5 school breakfast or lunch programs.

6 5. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to
7 chapter 17A to administer this section.

8 Sec. 5. Section 283A.10, Code 2025, is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 **283A.10 School breakfast or lunch in nonpublic schools.**

11 The Unless required under section 283A.6, the authorities
12 in charge of nonpublic schools may operate or provide for the
13 operation of school breakfast or lunch programs in schools
14 under their jurisdiction and may use funds appropriated to
15 them by the general assembly, gifts, funds received from sale
16 of school breakfasts or lunches under such programs, and any
17 other funds available to the nonpublic school. However, unless
18 required under section 283A.6, school breakfast or lunch programs
19 shall not be required in nonpublic schools. The department
20 of education shall direct the disbursement of state funds to
21 nonpublic schools for school breakfast or lunch programs in the
22 same manner as state funds are disbursed to public schools. If
23 a nonpublic school receives state funds for the operation of a
24 school breakfast or lunch program, meals served under the program
25 shall be nutritionally adequate meals, as defined in section
26 283A.1.

27 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
28 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

29 **EXPLANATION**

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill relates to school lunch and breakfast programs
33 provided by school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
34 charter schools, and innovation zone schools (schools).

35 For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June

1 30, 2026, the bill requires each school to operate a program
2 under which breakfasts and lunches are served to students in
3 attendance at no charge to the student or the student's family
4 if the student's family has a family income that is less than
5 or equal to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. For the
6 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027,
7 the bill requires each school to operate such a program if the
8 student's family has a family income that is less than or equal
9 to 400 percent of the federal poverty level. For the fiscal year
10 beginning July 1, 2027, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the
11 bill requires each school to operate such a program regardless of
12 the income of the student's family.

13 The bill appropriates from the general fund of the state to
14 the department of education an amount necessary to make the
15 payments to schools necessary to cover the costs of providing
16 free school lunches and school breakfasts that are not covered
17 by any Act of Congress and appropriated to the state of Iowa
18 for use in connection with school breakfast or lunch programs.
19 The bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules to
20 administer these provisions. The bill makes conforming changes.

21 The bill takes effect upon enactment.