

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE BILL

NO. 1  
Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_ March 12, 2026

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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## Universal Free School Meals

AN ACT

This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Universal Free School Meals Act.”

The Department of Education shall administer a Universal Free School Meals Program to provide free breakfast and lunch each school day to every student enrolled in a public-school entity, a charter school and a non-public school that elects to participate.

Schools shall serve meals that meet USDA nutritional standards. No student shall be charged, and no meal debt shall be created.

The Department shall reimburse schools for the net cost of providing free meals after accounting for federal reimbursements.

The sum of **\$250,000,000** shall be appropriated from the General Fund to the Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and each year thereafter to implement this act.

This act shall take effect July 1, 2026, and apply to the 2026–27 school year and thereafter. Relating to the cost of school, it provided lunches to students, faculty, and staff.