

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**PUBLISHED: 1/30/2026 9:36 AM**

**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB832

**Patron:** Pope Adams

**Bill Title:** Academic year Governor's Schools; school meals.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the regional governing board of each academic year Governor's School to (i) either (a) require such school to participate in the federal National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or (b) if facility limitations preclude participation in such federal programs, offer students, to the maximum extent practicable, lunch and breakfast that are of a comparable nutrition profile to meals that would be provided pursuant to such federal programs and (ii) make such lunch and breakfast available to any student who requests such a meal, regardless of whether such student has the money to pay for the meal or owes money for meals previously provided, unless the student's parent has provided written permission to the regional governing board to withhold such a meal from the student. The bill provides that the foregoing provisions shall not be construed to limit the ability of a regional governing board to collect payment for meals so provided, as long as such board does not utilize a nongovernmental third-party debt collector to collect on such debt.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**Items Impacted:** None

**Explanation:** There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

**Fiscal Analysis:** The Department of Education Office of School and Community Nutrition programs can absorb any cost to work with new school food authorities. There is no anticipated state fiscal impact.

The Department of Education provided additional context on potential local impact. Local school divisions that participate in academic year Governor's Schools may experience increased costs to provide meals at the Governor's School. Currently public school divisions who are either the fiscal agent for a Governor's School or the public school division whose proximity is closest in location to the school, are encouraged to choose to bring the Governor's Schools on the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs under their sponsorship and agreement with the state. These divisions could face significant upfront costs to bring on these schools, including fitting the schools with appropriate commercial kitchen equipment, setting up technology, and providing staffing. Currently Governor's Schools can also join the programs as an independent school food authority; however, they are unlikely to do so because of the existing budget limitations to outfit a kitchen, provide staffing, and manage all of the federal requirements of the school meal programs.

Additionally, most academic year Governor's School programs are partial day and do not serve meals as a part of the program. This bill would require these programs to serve meals regardless of the length of the program each day.

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The state share of funding for academic year Governor's school provided through Direct Aid to Public Education is based on a weighted composite index and growth in the Basic Aid per-pupil amount, so any increase in local expenditures would not lead to an increase in state funding.

**Other:** None