

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8728

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make breakfasts and lunches free for all children, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. PETTERSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make breakfasts and lunches free for all children, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Feed Our Kids Act of 2026”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Effective date.

TITLE I—SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Free school breakfast program.

TITLE II—SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

- Sec. 201. Apportionment to States.
- Sec. 202. Nutritional and other program requirements.
- Sec. 203. Special assistance program.
- Sec. 204. Price for a paid lunch.
- Sec. 205. Summer food service program for children.
- Sec. 206. Child and adult care food program.
- Sec. 207. Meals and supplements for children in afterschool care.
- Sec. 208. Pilot projects.
- Sec. 209. Fresh fruit and vegetable program.
- Sec. 210. Training, technical assistance, and Food Service Management Institute.
- Sec. 211. Reimbursement of school meal delinquent debt program.
- Sec. 212. Conforming amendments.

TITLE III—REPORT

Sec. 301. Report on free school meal programs.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 Unless otherwise provided, this Act, and the amend-
 3 ments made by this Act, shall take effect 1 year after the
 4 date of enactment of this Act.

5 **TITLE I—SCHOOL BREAKFAST** 6 **PROGRAM**

7 **SEC. 101. FREE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the Child Nutri-
 9 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(a)) is amended, in the
 10 first sentence—

11 (1) by striking “is hereby” and inserting “are”;
 12 and

1 (2) by inserting “to provide free breakfast to all
2 children enrolled at those schools” before “in accord-
3 ance”.

4 (b) APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.—Section 4(b) of
5 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking
9 subclause (II) and inserting the following:

10 “(II) the national average pay-
11 ment for free breakfasts, as specified
12 in subparagraph (B).”;

13 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
14 serting the following:

15 “(B) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The national aver-
17 age payment for each free breakfast shall
18 be \$2.80, adjusted annually for inflation in
19 accordance with clause (ii) and rounded in
20 accordance with clause (iii).

21 “(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

22 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The annual
23 inflation adjustment under clause (i)
24 shall reflect changes in the cost of op-
25 erating the free breakfast program

1 under this section, as indicated by the
2 change in the Consumer Price Index
3 for food away from home for all urban
4 consumers.

5 “(II) BASIS.—Each inflation an-
6 nual adjustment under clause (i) shall
7 reflect the changes in the Consumer
8 Price Index for food away from home
9 for the most recent 12-month period
10 for which that data is available.

11 “(iii) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026,
12 and annually thereafter, the national aver-
13 age payment rate for free breakfast shall
14 be—

15 “(I) adjusted to the nearest
16 lower-cent increment; and

17 “(II) based on the unrounded
18 amounts for the preceding 12-month
19 period.”;

20 (C) by striking subparagraphs (C) and
21 (E); and

22 (D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
23 subparagraph (C);

24 (2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

1 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
2 paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

3 (4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by
4 striking “paragraph (3) or (4)” and inserting “para-
5 graph (2)”.

6 (c) STATE DISBURSEMENT TO SCHOOLS.—Section 4
7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) is
8 amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(c) STATE DISBURSEMENT TO SCHOOLS.—Funds
11 apportioned and paid to any State for the purpose of this
12 section shall be disbursed by the State educational agency
13 to schools selected by the State educational agency to as-
14 sist those schools in operating a breakfast program.”.

15 (d) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
17 provision of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
18 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) or any other provision of law,
19 effective beginning on the date of enactment of this
20 Act, as a condition of participation in the breakfast
21 program under section 4 of that Act (42 U.S.C.
22 1773), a school—

23 (A) shall not collect any debt owed to the
24 school for unpaid meal charges; and

1 (B) shall continue to accrue debt for un-
2 paid meal charges—

3 (i) for the purpose of receiving reim-
4 bursement under section 211; and

5 (ii) until the effective date specified in
6 section 2.

7 (2) CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 1966.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Child
9 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) is
10 amended by striking subsection (d) and insert-
11 ing the following:

12 “(d) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—A school partici-
13 pating in the free breakfast program under this section
14 shall not collect any debt owed to the school for unpaid
15 meal charges.”.

16 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
17 23(a) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
18 U.S.C. 1793(a)) is amended by striking “school
19 in severe need, as described in section 4(d)(1)”
20 and inserting the following: “school—

21 “(1) that has a free breakfast program under
22 section 4 or seeks to initiate a free breakfast pro-
23 gram under that section; and

24 “(2) of which not less than 40 percent of the
25 students are economically disadvantaged students

1 (as identified under a measure described in section
2 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
3 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”.

4 (e) NUTRITIONAL AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIRE-
5 MENTS.—Section 4(e) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
6 (42 U.S.C. 1773(e)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), in the second sentence,
8 by striking “free or” and all that follows through
9 the period at the end and inserting “free to all chil-
10 dren enrolled at a school participating in the school
11 breakfast program.”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2), in the second sentence, by
13 striking “the full charge to the student for a break-
14 fast meeting the requirements of this section or”.

15 (f) PROHIBITION ON BREAKFAST SHAMING, MEAL
16 DENIAL.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the
18 date of enactment of this Act, a school or school
19 food authority—

20 (A) shall not—

21 (i) physically segregate for the pur-
22 pose of debt shaming or otherwise dis-
23 criminate against any child participating in
24 the breakfast program under section 4 of

1 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
2 U.S.C. 1773); or

3 (ii) overtly identify a child described
4 in clause (i) by a special token or ticket,
5 an announced or published list of names,
6 or any other means; and

7 (B) shall provide the program meal to any
8 child eligible under the program.

9 (2) CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 1966.—Section 4
10 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)
11 is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(f) PROHIBITION ON BREAKFAST SHAMING.—A
13 school or school food authority shall not—

14 “(1) physically segregate for the purpose of
15 debt shaming or otherwise discriminate against any
16 child participating in the free breakfast program
17 under this section; or

18 “(2) overtly identify a child described in para-
19 graph (1) by a special token or ticket, an announced
20 or published list of names, or any other means.”.

21 (g) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OVERSEAS DEPEND-
22 ENTS’ SCHOOLS.—Section 20(b) of the Child Nutrition
23 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1789(b)) is amended by striking
24 “by this section” and all that follows through the period
25 at the end and inserting “by this section.”.

1 (h) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Child Nutri-
2 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) is amended—

3 (1) by striking “or reduced price” each place it
4 appears;

5 (2) by striking “and reduced price” each place
6 it appears; and

7 (3) by striking “a reduced price” each place it
8 appears.

9 **TITLE II—SCHOOL LUNCH**
10 **PROGRAM**

11 **SEC. 201. APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.**

12 Section 4(b) of the Richard B. Russell National
13 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)) is amended—

14 (1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(2) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The national average
18 payment for each free lunch shall be \$4.63, ad-
19 justed annually for inflation in accordance with
20 subparagraph (C) and rounded in accordance
21 with subparagraph (D).

22 “(B) ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR LOCAL
23 FOOD.—

24 “(i) DEFINITION OF LOCALLY-
25 SOURCED FARM PRODUCT.—In this sub-

1 paragraph, the term ‘locally-sourced farm
2 product’ means a farm product that—

3 “(I) is marketed to consumers—

4 “(aa) directly; or

5 “(bb) through intermediated
6 channels (such as food hubs and
7 cooperatives); and

8 “(II) with respect to the school
9 food authority purchasing the farm
10 product, is produced and distrib-
11 uted—

12 “(aa) in the State in which
13 the school food authority is lo-
14 cated; or

15 “(bb) not more than 250
16 miles from the location of the
17 school food authority.

18 “(ii) ADDITIONAL PAYMENT ELIGI-
19 BILITY.—During a school year, a school
20 food authority shall receive an additional
21 payment described in clause (iii) if the
22 State certifies that the school food author-
23 ity served meals (including breakfasts,
24 lunches, suppers, and supplements) during
25 the last school year of which not less than

1 25 percent were made with locally sourced
2 farm products.

3 “(iii) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

4 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The addi-
5 tional payment amount under this
6 subparagraph shall be—

7 “(aa) \$0.30 for each free
8 lunch and supper;

9 “(bb) \$0.21 for each free
10 breakfast; and

11 “(cc) \$0.08 for each free
12 supplement.

13 “(II) ADJUSTMENTS.—Each ad-
14 ditional payment amount under sub-
15 clause (I) shall be adjusted annually
16 in accordance with subparagraph (C)
17 and rounded in accordance with sub-
18 paragraph (D).

19 “(iv) DISBURSEMENT.—The State
20 agency shall disburse funds made available
21 under this clause to school food authorities
22 eligible to receive additional reimburse-
23 ment.

24 “(C) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The annual infla-
2 tion adjustment under subparagraphs (A)
3 and (B)(iii) shall reflect changes in the
4 cost of operating the free lunch program
5 under this Act, as indicated by the change
6 in the Consumer Price Index for food away
7 from home for all urban consumers.

8 “(ii) BASIS.—Each annual inflation
9 adjustment under subparagraphs (A) and
10 (B)(iii) shall reflect the changes in the
11 Consumer Price Index for food away from
12 home for the most recent 12-month period
13 for which that data is available.

14 “(D) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026, and
15 annually thereafter, the national average pay-
16 ment rate for free lunch and the additional pay-
17 ment amount for free breakfast, lunch, supper,
18 and supplement under subparagraph (B) shall
19 be—

20 “(i) adjusted to the nearest lower-cent
21 increment; and

22 “(ii) based on the unrounded amounts
23 for the preceding 12-month period.”; and

24 (2) by striking paragraph (3).

1 **SEC. 202. NUTRITIONAL AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIRE-**
2 **MENTS.**

3 (a) **ELIMINATION OF FREE LUNCH ELIGIBILITY RE-**
4 **QUIREMENTS.—**

5 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 9 of the Richard B.
6 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1758) is amended by striking subsection (b) and in-
8 serting the following:

9 “(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—All children enrolled in a school
10 that participates in the school lunch program under this
11 Act shall be eligible to receive free lunch under this Act.”.

12 (2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—**

13 (A) Section 9 of the Richard B. Russell
14 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758) is
15 amended—

16 (i) in subsection (c), in the third sen-
17 tence, by striking “or at a reduced cost”;
18 and

19 (ii) in subsection (e), by striking “, re-
20 duced price,”.

21 (B) Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell
22 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769i)
23 is amended—

24 (i) by striking subsection (b); and

25 (ii) by redesignating subsection (c) as
26 subsection (b).

1 (C) Section 17(d)(2)(A) of the Child Nu-
2 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(d)(2)(A))
3 is amended—

4 (i) by striking clause (i); and

5 (ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and
6 (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

7 (D) Section 1902(a) of the Social Security
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amended by strik-
9 ing paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

10 “(7) provide safeguards which restrict the use
11 or disclosure of information concerning applicants
12 and recipients to purposes directly connected with
13 the administration of the plan;”.

14 (E) Section 1154(a)(2)(A)(i) of title 10,
15 United States Code, is amended by striking “in
16 accordance with section 9(b)(1) of the Richard
17 B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
18 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1))”.

19 (F) Section 4301 of the Food, Conserva-
20 tion, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C.
21 1758a) is repealed.

22 (b) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
24 provision of the Richard B. Russell National School
25 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or any other

1 provision of law, effective beginning on the date of
2 enactment of this Act, as a condition of participation
3 in the school lunch program under that Act, a
4 school—

5 (A) shall not collect any debt owed to the
6 school for unpaid meal charges; and

7 (B) shall continue to accrue debt for un-
8 paid meal charges—

9 (i) for the purpose of receiving reim-
10 bursement under section 211; and

11 (ii) until the effective date specified in
12 section 2.

13 (2) NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT.—Section 9
14 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 1758) is amended by striking sub-
16 section (d) and inserting the following:

17 “(d) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—A school partici-
18 pating in the school lunch program under this Act shall
19 not collect any debt owed to the school for unpaid meal
20 charges.”.

21 (c) PROHIBITION ON LUNCH SHAMING.—Section 9 of
22 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
23 U.S.C. 1758) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(m) PROHIBITION ON LUNCH SHAMING.—A school
2 participating in the school lunch program under this Act
3 shall not—

4 “(1) physically segregate for the purpose of
5 debt shaming or otherwise discriminate against any
6 child participating in the school lunch program
7 under this Act; or

8 “(2) overtly identify a child described in para-
9 graph (1) by a special token or ticket, an announced
10 or published list of names, or any other means.”.

11 **SEC. 203. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11 of the Richard B. Rus-
13 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a) is re-
14 pealed.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) Section 6 of the Richard B. Russell Na-
17 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755) is amend-
18 ed—

19 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “sec-
20 tions 11 and 13” and inserting “section 13”;
21 and

22 (B) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter pre-
23 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “section
24 4, this section, and section 11” and inserting
25 “this section and section 4”.

1 (2) Section 7(d) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
2 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1756(d)) is
3 amended by striking “or 11”.

4 (3) Section 8(g) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
5 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1757(g)) is
6 amended by striking “and under section 11 of this
7 Act”.

8 (4) Section 12(f) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
9 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(f)) is
10 amended by striking “11,”.

11 (5) Section 7(a) of the Child Nutrition Act of
12 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766(a)) is amended—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “4,
14 11, and 17” and inserting “4 and 17”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “sec-
16 tions 4 and 11” and inserting “section 4”.

17 (6) Section 1101(j)(3) of the Families First
18 Coronavirus Response Act (7 U.S.C. 2011 note;
19 Public Law 116–127) is amended—

20 (A) by striking “or served under section
21 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National
22 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d),
23 1759(a)(1))” and inserting “of the Richard B.
24 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
25 1760(d))”; and

1 (B) by striking “or reduced price”.

2 **SEC. 204. PRICE FOR A PAID LUNCH.**

3 Section 12 of the Richard B. Russell National School
4 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (l)(4)—

6 (A) by striking subparagraph (D); and

7 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
8 through (M) as subparagraphs (D) through
9 (L), respectively;

10 (2) by striking subsection (p); and

11 (3) by redesignating subsections (q) and (r) as
12 subsections (p) and (q), respectively.

13 **SEC. 205. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHIL-**
14 **DREN.**

15 Section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School
16 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

19 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “have
20 been determined eligible for free or re-
21 duced price school meals under this Act
22 and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
23 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are
24 economically disadvantaged students (as
25 identified under a measure described in

1 section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and
2 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
3 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

4 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking “are
5 eligible for free or reduced price school
6 meals under this Act and the Child Nutri-
7 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)”
8 and inserting “are economically disadvan-
9 tagged students (as identified under a meas-
10 ure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the
11 Elementary and Secondary Education Act
12 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

13 (iii) in subclause (III)(bb), by striking
14 “meet the income standards for free or re-
15 duced price school meals under this Act
16 and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
17 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are
18 economically disadvantaged students (as
19 identified under a measure described in
20 section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and
21 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
22 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

23 (iv) in subclause (IV), by striking
24 “are eligible for free or reduced price
25 school meals under this Act and the Child

Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are economically disadvantaged students (as identified under a measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”; and

(v) in subclause (V), by striking “are eligible for free or reduced price school meals under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are economically disadvantaged students (as identified under a measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) WAIVER.—If the Secretary determines that a program requirement under this section limits the access of children to meals served under this section, the Secretary may waive that program requirement.

“(D) ELIGIBILITY.—All children shall be eligible to participate in the program under this section.”;

1 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “only
2 for” and all that follows through the period at
3 the end and inserting “for meals served to all
4 children.”; and

5 (D) in paragraph (13)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
7 ing “eligible for a free or reduced price
8 lunch under this Act or a free or reduced
9 price breakfast under section 4 of the
10 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
11 1773)” and inserting “an economically dis-
12 advantaged student (as identified under a
13 measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of
14 the Elementary and Secondary Education
15 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by strik-
17 ing “eligible for free or reduced price lunch
18 under this Act or free or reduced price
19 breakfast under section 4 of the Child Nu-
20 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)” and
21 inserting “economically disadvantaged stu-
22 dents (as identified under a measure de-
23 scribed in section 1113(a)(5) of the Ele-
24 mentary and Secondary Education Act of
25 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “may only
2 serve” and all that follows through “migrant chil-
3 dren”;

4 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(c) PAYMENTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Payments shall be made to
8 service institutions for meals served—

9 “(A) during the months of May through
10 September;

11 “(B) during school vacation at any time
12 during an academic school year;

13 “(C) during a teacher in-service day; and

14 “(D) on days that school is closed due to
15 a natural disaster, building repair, court order,
16 or similar cause, as determined by the Sec-
17 retary.

18 “(2) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—A service in-
19 stitution shall receive payments under this section
20 for not more than 3 meals and 1 supplement per
21 child per day.”; and

22 (4) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “, except
23 that” and all that follows through “section”.

1 **SEC. 206. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM.**

2 Section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School
3 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking subpara-
5 graph (B) and inserting the following:

6 “(B) any other private organization pro-
7 viding nonresidential child care or day care out-
8 side school hours for school children;”;

9 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(c) FREE MEALS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
12 vision of law—

13 “(1) all meals and supplements served under
14 the program authorized under this section shall be
15 provided for free to participants of the program; and

16 “(2) an institution that serves those meals and
17 supplements shall be reimbursed—

18 “(A) in the case of breakfast, at the rate
19 established for free breakfast under section
20 4(b)(1)(B)(i) of the Child Nutrition Act of
21 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B)(i));

22 “(B) in the case of lunch, at the rate es-
23 tablished for free lunch under section
24 4(b)(2)(A); and

1 “(C) in the case of a supplemental meal,
2 \$1.20, adjusted for inflation in accordance with
3 section 4(b)(2)(C).”;

4 (3) in subsection (f)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
6 graph (B) and inserting the following:

7 “(B) LIMITATION TO REIMBURSEMENTS.—

8 An institution may claim reimbursement under
9 this paragraph for not more than 3 meals and
10 1 supplement per day per child.”;

11 (B) by striking paragraph (3); and

12 (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
13 paragraph (3);

14 (4) in subsection (o)—

15 (A) by striking paragraph (4); and

16 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and
17 (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and
18 (5) in subsection (r)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking

20 “PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK SCHOOL CHILDREN”

21 and inserting “AFTERSCHOOL MEAL AND
22 SNACK PROGRAM”;

23 (B) by striking “at-risk school” each place
24 it appears and inserting “eligible”;

25 (C) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
 2 ing “AT-RISK SCHOOL” and inserting “ELI-
 3 GIBLE”; and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 5 “operated” and all that follows through
 6 the period at the end and inserting a pe-
 7 riod; and

8 (D) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “only
 9 for” and all that follows through the period at
 10 the end and inserting the following: “for—

11 “(i) not more than 1 meal and 1 sup-
 12 plement per child per day served on a reg-
 13 ular school day; and

14 “(ii) not more than 3 meals and 1
 15 supplement per child per day served on
 16 any day other than a regular school day.”.

17 **SEC. 207. MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN**
 18 **AFTERSCHOOL CARE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 17A of the Richard B.
 20 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) is
 21 amended—

22 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**MEAL**
 23 **SUPPLEMENTS**” and inserting “**MEALS AND SUP-**
 24 **PLEMENTS**”;

1 (2) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “meal sup-
 2 plements” and inserting “free meals and supple-
 3 ments”;

4 (3) in subsection (b), by inserting “meals and”
 5 before “supplements”;

6 (4) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
 7 following:

8 “(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

10 “(A) MEALS.—A free meal provided under
 11 this section to a child shall be reimbursed at a
 12 rate of \$4.63, adjusted annually for inflation in
 13 accordance with paragraph (3)(A) and rounded
 14 in accordance with paragraph (3)(B).

15 “(B) SUPPLEMENTS.—A free supplement
 16 provided under this section to a child shall be
 17 reimbursed at the rate at which free supple-
 18 ments are reimbursed under section
 19 17(c)(2)(C).

20 “(2) LIMITATION TO REIMBURSEMENTS.—An
 21 institution may claim reimbursement under this sec-
 22 tion for not more than 1 meal and 1 supplement per
 23 day per child served on a regular school day.

24 “(3) INFLATION; ROUNDING.—

25 “(A) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The annual infla-
 2 tion adjustment under paragraph (1)(A)
 3 shall reflect changes in the cost of oper-
 4 ating the program under this section, as
 5 indicated by the change in the Consumer
 6 Price Index for food away from home for
 7 all urban consumers.

8 “(ii) BASIS.—Each inflation annual
 9 adjustment under paragraph (1)(A) shall
 10 reflect the changes in the Consumer Price
 11 Index for food away from home for the
 12 most recent 12-month period for which
 13 that data is available.

14 “(B) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026, and
 15 annually thereafter, the reimbursement rate for
 16 a free meal under this section shall be—

17 “(i) adjusted to the nearest lower-cent
 18 increment; and

19 “(ii) based on the unrounded amounts
 20 for the preceding 12-month period.”; and

21 (5) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(e) PROHIBITION ON MEAL SHAMING.—A school
 23 participating in the program under this section shall not—

24 “(1) physically segregate for the purpose of
 25 debt shaming or otherwise discriminate against any

1 child participating in the program under this sec-
2 tion; or

3 “(2) overtly identify a child described in para-
4 graph (1) by a special token or ticket, an announced
5 or published list of names, or any other means.”.

6 (b) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of the Richard B. Russell National School
9 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or any other
10 provision of law, effective beginning on the date of
11 enactment of this Act, as a condition of participation
12 in the program under section 17A of that Act, a
13 school—

14 (A) shall not collect any debt owed to the
15 school for unpaid meal supplement charges; and

16 (B) shall continue to accrue debt for un-
17 paid meal supplement charges—

18 (i) for the purpose of receiving reim-
19 bursement under section 211; and

20 (ii) until the effective date specified in
21 section 2.

22 (2) NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT.—Section
23 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School
24 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) is amended by adding
25 at the end the following:

1 “(f) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—A school partici-
 2 pating in the program under this section shall not collect
 3 any debt owed to the school for unpaid meal or meal sup-
 4 plement charges.”.

5 **SEC. 208. PILOT PROJECTS.**

6 Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School
 7 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (g)(5), by striking subpara-
 9 graph (B) and inserting the following:

10 “(B) serve a high proportion of economi-
 11 cally disadvantaged students (as identified
 12 under a measure described in section
 13 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary
 14 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 15 6313(a)(5)))”;

16 (2) in subsection (h)(1)(A)(ii), by striking “eli-
 17 gible for free or reduced price meals under this Act”
 18 and inserting “economically disadvantaged students
 19 (as identified under a measure described in section
 20 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 21 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

22 (3) by striking subsection (j); and

23 (4) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-
 24 section (j).

1 **SEC. 209. FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM.**

2 Section 19(d) of the Richard B. Russell National
3 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a(d)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

6 (A), by striking “paragraph (2) of this sub-
7 section and”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
9 preceding clause (i), by striking “school—” and
10 all that follows through “submits” in clause (ii)
11 and inserting “school that submits”;

12 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking
13 “schools” and all that follows through “Act”
14 and inserting “high-need schools (as defined in
15 section 2211(b) of the Elementary and Sec-
16 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 6631(b)))”; and

18 (D) in subparagraph (D)—

19 (i) by striking clause (i); and

20 (ii) by redesignating clauses (ii)
21 through (iv) as clauses (i) through (iii), re-
22 spectively; and

23 (2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and in-
24 serting the following:

25 “(2) OUTREACH TO HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS.—

26 Prior to making decisions regarding school participa-

tion in the program, a State agency shall inform high-need schools (as defined in section 2211(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6631(b))), including Tribal schools, of the eligibility of the schools for the program.”.

SEC. 210. TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE.

Section 21(a)(1)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b–1(a)(1)(B)) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking “certified to receive free or reduced price meals” and inserting “who are economically disadvantaged students (as identified under a measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”.

SEC. 211. REIMBURSEMENT OF SCHOOL MEAL DELINQUENT DEBT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DELINQUENT DEBT.—The term “delinquent debt” means the debt owed by a parent or guardian of a child to a school—

(A) as of the effective date specified in section 2; and

(B) for meals or meal supplements served by the school under—

1 (i) the school breakfast program
2 under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act
3 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773);

4 (ii) the school lunch program estab-
5 lished under the Richard B. Russell Na-
6 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751
7 et seq.); or

8 (iii) the program established under
9 section 17A of the Richard B. Russell Na-
10 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1766a).

12 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
13 the program established under subsection (b)(1).

14 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Agriculture.

16 (b) REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days
18 after the effective date specified in section 2, the
19 Secretary shall establish a program under which the
20 Secretary shall reimburse each school participating
21 in a program described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of
22 subsection (a)(1)(B) for all delinquent debt.

23 (2) FORM FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—To carry out
24 the program, the Secretary shall design and dis-
25 tribute a form to State agencies to collect data on

1 all delinquent debt in applicable schools in the State,
2 grouped by school food authority.

3 (3) COMPLETION DATE.—The Secretary shall
4 provide all reimbursements under the program not
5 later than 180 days after the effective date specified
6 in section 2.

7 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the effec-
8 tive date specified in section 2, the Comptroller General
9 of the United States shall submit to Congress and make
10 publicly available a report that describes the successes and
11 challenges of the program.

12 **SEC. 212. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

13 The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “or reduced price” each place it
16 appears;

17 (2) by striking “or a reduced price” each place
18 it appears;

19 (3) by striking “and reduced price” each place
20 it appears; and

21 (4) by striking “a reduced price” each place it
22 appears.

TITLE III—REPORT

SEC. 301. REPORT ON FREE SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS.

Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this Act, the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service shall submit to Congress a report on how the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) impact students who participate in such programs, including—

(1) whether the amendments made by this Act to such programs have resulted in any measurable positive academic outcomes for such students, including any increase in test scores or graduation rates;

(2) whether such programs increase student access to nutritional meals and locally sourced farm products (as such term is defined in section 4(b)(2)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended by this Act); and

(3) any recommendations for additional legislative or administrative actions to increase the use of locally sourced farm products in meals provided under such programs.

