

HB 2760 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/08/19

Action: Do pass and be referred to Student Success by prior reference

Vote: 7-2-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Sollman

Nays: 2 - Reschke, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/27, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Universal School Meal Account to reimburse school districts for United States Department of Agriculture reimbursable meals, and meals not reimbursed by state, federal, or other sources. Provides for prioritization of distributions if funds are insufficient to make reimbursements. Establishes prioritization to districts offering breakfast, lunch, or both without consideration of percentage of students categorically eligible, and then to districts based on four-year eligibility using percentage of free, reduced, and total cost of meals. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Link between student success and school meals
- Challenge in computing cost and overall cost of policy
- Difficulty in providing breakfast for students in rural areas due to travel time to and from school

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal program that allows districts, schools, or groups of schools to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge based on student population eligibility. House Bill 2545 (2015) required school districts to provide lunch at no charge to students eligible for reduced price lunch benefits. This program allows more families to participate at no cost to their household. Schools with qualifying students must determine if the CEP or the Standard Program will yield higher reimbursements. Five school districts have since left the CEP program and participate in the standard program.

House Bill 2760 establishes the Universal School Meal Account to reimburse school districts for USDA reimbursable meals, and for meals not reimbursed by state, federal, or other sources. The measure prioritizes the distribution of funds.