



2016 State Legislative Summary: January 1 through March 30

31 bills related to school meals were introduced in State legislatures between January and March of 2016. This report does not include Appropriations/Budget bills, unless it includes new or updated nutrition policies.

Trends in State Legislation are a great way to gain insight into current issues in the school meal arena and can often predict what we will see in the upcoming Federal legislative year. SNA encourages developing strong relationships with the State governments to assist with promoting strong school nutrition programs.

2016 State Legislation Trends

Competitive Foods

Bills relating to competitive foods are a top trend in schools. Six bills were introduced in California, New York, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. Of the six, two bills are active.

[SB 1169](#) in California would require competitive foods and beverages to align with federal standards.

[S 2757](#) in Rhode Island would require alignment with federal standards and requires The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to assist school districts with compliance and develop a process to monitor compliance.

Breakfast

Establishing or clarifying school breakfast programs is also a top trend with four bills introduced in Illinois, Maryland, and New Mexico. Of the four, three are active and one has been signed into law.

[SB 2393](#) in Illinois was recently introduced with strong backing. It would establish Breakfast after the Bell programs in all schools with 70% or more free and reduced price eligibility.

[SB 756](#) and [HB 1360](#) are companion bills in Maryland and would require a Breakfast after the Bell program in all schools with at least 85% free and reduced price eligibility. SB 756 has passed in the Senate.

Unpaid Meal Charges

Bills addressing policy on unpaid meal charges are cropping up in Hawaii and New Hampshire.

[HB 2132](#) and [SB 2426](#) in Hawaii would prohibit denying a student a meal for the first thirty days of school and for the first two weeks of a zero fund balance. The bills have passed both House and Senate Education committees.

Less prominent, but still trending, are bills intended to eliminate the **reduced-price category**, and place limits on **marketing** on school grounds.

Summary and Status of 2016 State Legislation

 Active	 Paused/Sleeping	 Dead	 Law
 Introduced/ 1 st Reading		 Passed 2 nd Chamber	
 Referred to Committee		 Conference	
 Passed Cmte. 1 st Chamber		 Passed Legislature	
 Passed 1 st Chamber		 Signed/Enacted	
 Passed Cmte. 2 nd Chamber			

ALASKA

[HCR 18](#)

  *Sleeping in Committee*

Introduced 02/03/2016

Encouraging schools and businesses to reduce, recover, and recycle **food waste**.

CALIFORNIA

[SB 1169](#)

 

Introduced 02/18/2016

Makes numerous changes to school nutrition standards for **competitive food and beverages** to better align to the federal Smart Snacks in Schools regulations.

CONNECTICUT

[SB 76](#)

 

Introduced 02/10/2016

Requiring that any bid submitted by a food service management company in response to a request for proposal or bid solicitation by a local or regional board of education must include information detailing its consistency with the state's **Farm to School** program. Preference will be given to bids that facilitate the purchase of products from local farmers.

HAWAII

[HB 2132 / SB 2426](#)

 

Introduced 1/22/2016

These House and Senate bills **prohibit denying a student a meal** for the first thirty days of a semester while applications are being processed, or for the first two weeks a student's meal fund balance is zero or negative. The bills have passed in both the House and Senate Education Committees.

[HCR 146 / SCR 143](#)



Introduced 3/11/2016

Concurrent resolution that would request the Department of Education to provide the necessary **equipment and staff** to create a full-service kitchen at Keaukaha Elementary School.

ILLINOIS

[SB 2393](#)



Introduced 4/4/2016

Breakfast After the Bell amendment to The Childhood Hunger Relief Act that would direct the board of education of each school district in Illinois to **implement and operate a Breakfast after the Bell program in the next academic year for all schools with 70% or more free and reduced priced eligibility**. The State Board of Education shall develop and distribute guidelines for implementation and make implementation records public.

KENTUCKY

[HJR 115 / SJR 114](#)



Introduced 2/8/2016

Directs the Kentucky Board of Education to require school **lunch periods of at least 30 minutes** in kindergarten through grade five schools, between the hours of 11am and 1pm whenever feasible.

MARYLAND

[SB 756 / HB1360](#)



Introduced 2/8/2016

Establishes a **Breakfast After the Bell** program. Requiring that in the 2016-2017 school year all public schools with at least 85% free and reduced-price lunch or 55% direct certified shall offer **free breakfast** to every student after the start of the school day, using an alternative breakfast model. The percentage requirements will reduce by 5% in the following two years.

[SB 755 / HB 1325](#)



Introduced 2/5/2016

Eliminates the reduced-price category by holding the State responsible for the student share of the costs of each reduced price meal.

MISSISSIPPI

[HB 71](#)



Dead in Committee

Introduced 2/6/2016

Requires **all school cafeterias to comply with federal National School Lunch and School Breakfast** program standards and requires each school to prominently display the nutritional guide chart or the food pyramid.

[HB 1036](#)

  *Dead in Committee*

Introduced 2/8/2016

Requires school districts to serve **low-fat meals and snacks to students diagnosed as overweight.**

NEW HAMPSHIRE

[SB371](#)

 

Introduced 1/6/2016

Establishes requirements for implementing a **school lunch meal payment policy.**

[SB372](#)

  *Paused for Further Study*

Introduced 1/6/2016

Establishes the **School Lunch Meal Program Fund** in order to provide financial assistance to school districts so that they may provide school lunches to all children unable to pay the full cost of their meal.

New Mexico

[SB144](#)

  *Effective 9/14/2016*

Introduced 1/21/2016

Renaming the Breakfast after the Bell program and **allowing schools the option of providing breakfast before or after the beginning of the instructional day.**

New York

[A4540](#)

  *Stricken*

Introduced 2/3/2016

A bill amending **competitive foods** nutritional standards, including limiting serving size of each package, calorie limits and prohibiting beverages other than juice with no added sugar, milk or water.

New Jersey

[A3058](#)

  *Sleeping in Committee*

Introduced 2/16/2016

Establishes a **Farm to School** Coordinating Council which would assess the states Farm to School Program and report recommendations to the Governor and Legislature within the year.

Rhode Island

[HB. 7487 / S 2673](#)

  *Paused for further study*

Introduced 2/5/2016

Would prohibit **marketing** of non-compliant foods on school property.

[HB. 7657](#)

  *Paused for further study*

Introduced 2/24/2016

Makes technical updates to Rhode Island's "competitive foods" statute which sets forth the nutritional criteria for foods and beverages sold in schools outside of the school meal programs. This bill would align Rhode Island **competitive foods** state standards to federal requirements.

[S 2757](#)

 

Introduced 3/10/2016

Requires all **competitive foods** and beverages sold on school campus during the school day to comply with federal competitive foods nutrition regulations. Fundraisers selling non-compliant competitive foods may do so at any time after the school day or off school campus. The department of elementary and secondary education shall post on its website resources to assist school districts with compliance and develop a process to monitor compliance.

Virginia

[HJ 83](#)

  *Left in Rules*

Introduced 1/13/2016

Requests the Department of Education to **study the effects of student participation in Federal free and reduced price meals programs** on student academic performance.

Washington

[HB 2964](#)

  *Returned to House Rules Committee for Third Reading*

Introduced 2/2/2016

Eliminates the copay for the reduced-price category. It would require the state to pay for meals to students that qualify for reduced-price meals.

West Virginia

[HB 2112](#)

  *Dead in Committee*

Introduced 1/13/2016

Requiring all school districts to establish and operate a **take home meals program** for low-income students or any student who requests take home meals. In addition, School districts are required to collaborate with the state Office of Child Nutrition to develop strategies and methods to increase school breakfast participation.

[SB 75](#)

  *Dead in Committee*

Introduced 1/13/2016

This would amend the current law that addresses **cook-to-meal ratios** to change those numbers.

[HB 2510](#)

  *Dead in Committee*

Introduced 1/13/2016

Addresses **competitive foods** by requiring the faculty to work with the principal to create a plan for food at **school parties**. Food at these parties would not have to meet the nutrition and calorie limits of federal law.

[HB 2250](#)

  *Dead in Committee*

Introduced 1/23/2016

Addresses **competitive foods** by allowing parents or the school to **serve sweets during the holidays** if the school receives parental or guardian consent.