



**II. Present Situation:**

Current law requires that elementary schools participate in school breakfast programs and, although not required by law, the majority of middle and high schools currently participate in school breakfast programs.

Based on information provided by the Department of Education (DOE), the majority of local school districts make available information regarding the school breakfast program on their public websites as well as through school newsletters and menus.

The Legislature provides an annual supplement for elementary school breakfast programs. Student participation in breakfast programs has increased; however, the state supplement appropriation has remained the same.<sup>2</sup>

Under “universal free breakfast” programs, no student is required to pay; however, the federal reimbursement rate is based on the number of students served who are eligible for free, reduced-price, and paid meals.<sup>3</sup>

The federal reimbursement rate is currently higher in schools that meet the definition of “severe need,” schools in which 40 percent or more students are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

<b>Federal Reimbursement Rate – 2007-08</b>		
	Severe Need Breakfast	Non-Severe Need Breakfast
Paid	\$0.24	\$0.24
Reduced	\$1.31	\$1.05
Free	\$1.61	\$1.35

In a national pilot project, universal free breakfast caused increased participation. According to the pilot project report, school breakfast participation almost doubled in the pilot schools in the first year of universal-free breakfast, from 19 percent during the baseline school year to 36 percent. This higher level of participation in pilot school students was maintained in the second (38 percent) and third years (36 percent) of the pilot period. During this time, breakfast participation in the pilot schools increased slightly from the baseline school year, from 19 percent to 21 percent. The effect of the pilot program on breakfast participation rates varied across pilot schools. Greater increases were noted in pilot schools with a classroom breakfast.<sup>4</sup>

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill encourages that beginning in the 2008-2009 school year:

- School boards expand their school breakfast programs to the middle and high schools.
- Schools provide universal free breakfast to all students attending a school in which 80 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

<sup>2</sup> \$7,590,912 was appropriated in 2007-2008 FY.

<sup>3</sup> Florida Department of Education, January 29, 2008.

<sup>4</sup> The Journal of Child Nutrition and Management, Issue 1, Spring 2005, available at <http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/newsroom/jcnm/05spring/fns.asp>

Under the bill the DOE is encouraged to work collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture and school breakfast foundations to develop a cost-efficient incentive model to encourage the expansion of student participation in school breakfast programs through the use of existing funding sources.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Philanthropic foundations and organizations that support school breakfast programs would be encouraged to co-develop cost effective delivery models and as funding permits, provide financial resources to offset funding needs not met through current state and federal appropriations.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill could result in an increase in state matching dollars to support current shortfalls for school breakfast programs.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Education Pre-K-12 on April 1, 2008:**

The CS for SB 1458:

- Reduces the fiscal impact to the state and local school districts;
- Encourages school districts to provide school breakfast programs for all students K-12 within existing financial resources; and
- Encourages the DOE to work with other agencies and organizations to develop a funding model that would encourage across the board participation but within existing state and federal funding levels with no financial impact to districts or the state.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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