

HB 1523

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to food waste reduction; creating s.
1013.121, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education
to develop a specified policy; requiring school
districts to adopt the policy within a specified
timeframe; providing requirements for the policy;
requiring each participating school district to submit
a report to the department by a specified date;
providing requirements for the report; providing an
effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1013.121, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1013.121 School food and plastic waste reduction.—

(1) The Department of Education shall develop a policy to be adopted by 25 percent of school districts in this state by the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year and to be adopted by 100 percent of school districts in this state by the beginning of the 2029-2030 school year, which requires all of the following:

(a) A partnership with a local nonprofit organization or food bank to redistribute edible cafeteria food and divert organic food waste to a composting program.

26 (b) Installation of a sorting system for cafeteria waste,
27 subject to legislative appropriation.

28 (c) Gradual elimination of single-use plastics by
29 replacing them with reusable or compostable alternatives,
30 subject to legislative appropriation.

31 (2) Each participating school district shall submit an
32 annual report to the department by the end of each school year
33 which includes all of the following:

34 (a) Total quantity by weight of cafeteria food donated.
35 (b) Total quantity by weight of organic food waste
36 diverted to a composting program.

37 (c) Total quantity of single-use plastic items eliminated.
38 (d) Cost savings realized by the school district.
39 (e) Any barriers encountered and recommendations for the
40 policy.

41 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.