

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

School districts and other participants in the school meals program receive federal money and commodities for school breakfast and school lunches. The federal government pays per meal served according to annual rates established in the federal register. For schools serving less than 60 percent free or reduced price meals, the reimbursement is \$2.57 per free lunch, \$2.17 per reduced price lunch, and \$.24 for each fully paid meal. These amounts are increased by 2 cents per meal in schools that serve more than 60 percent free/reduced price meals. A student qualifies for a free lunch if the student's family income is 130 percent or less of the poverty level (\$27,560 for a family of four) and for a reduced price meal if the family's income is less than 185 percent of the poverty level (\$39,920 for a family of four). Minnesota's school funding formulas provide additional state aid for school meals. Under current law, the state pays an additional 12 cents for each school lunch served to a student. This bill raises the state aid for each meal served by 3 cents, at a cost of about \$3 million per year.

Section

- 1 School lunch aid computation.** Pays program participants an additional 3 cents per meal for each school lunch served.
- 2 Appropriations.** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of education to pay for the aid authorized in section 1.