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**SENATE BILL 5361**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senators McDermott, Swecker, Pridemore, Oemig, Marr, Jarrett, Kohl-Welles, Fraser, Kline, Murray, Kastama, McCaslin, Shin, Haugen, and Kilmer

Read first time 01/20/09. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to feeding hungry children through school breakfast  
2 and lunch programs and summer food service programs; amending RCW  
3 28A.235.150 and 28A.235.155; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children put a  
6 face on a troubled economy. As families lose their livelihoods and  
7 their homes, it becomes more difficult for them to ensure their  
8 children receive adequate nutrition. Despite the challenges also faced  
9 by the state in a troubled economy, it is the legislature's intent to  
10 maintain its current commitment, to the maximum extent possible, to  
11 feed hungry low-income students in public schools at no cost to the  
12 students. It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that all low-  
13 income students in public schools receive a nutritious school breakfast  
14 at no charge, and all low-income students in elementary schools receive  
15 school lunch at no charge. It is the legislature's goal over time to  
16 phase in the free provision of school lunches to all low-income  
17 students at all grade levels. It is further the intent of the  
18 legislature to invest strategically in capacity building and provision

1 of meals to low-income children during the summer months because  
2 children continue to need nutritious meals when school is not in  
3 operation during the summer.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.235.150 and 1993 c 333 s 3 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) To the extent funds are appropriated, the superintendent of  
7 public instruction may award grants to school districts to increase  
8 participation in school breakfast and lunch programs, to improve  
9 program quality, and to improve the equipment and facilities used in  
10 the programs. School districts shall demonstrate that they have  
11 applied for applicable federal funds before applying for funds under  
12 this subsection.

13 (2) To the extent funds are appropriated, the superintendent of  
14 public instruction shall increase the state support for school  
15 breakfasts and lunches.

16 (3) The legislature shall appropriate funds for allocation to  
17 school districts sufficient to:

18 (a) Eliminate the copayment for breakfast for all students  
19 qualifying for reduced-price lunch; and

20 (b) In any school that enrolls students in any of grades preschool  
21 through six, eliminate the copayment for lunch for all students  
22 qualifying for reduced-price lunch in the school.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.235.155 and 1993 c 333 s 4 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall administer funds  
26 for the federal summer food service program. To the extent funds are  
27 appropriated, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide  
28 state support for summer food service programs. State funds received  
29 by organizations operating summer food service programs must be used to  
30 support operating costs of the program, including food and labor costs,  
31 unless specific appropriations for nonoperating costs are provided.

32 (2) The superintendent of public instruction may award grants, to  
33 the extent funds are appropriated, to eligible organizations to help  
34 start new summer food service programs for children or to help expand  
35 summer food services for children. The superintendent of public  
36 instruction shall conduct two cycles of grant awards per school year,

1 with a fall cycle of grants of up to twenty thousand dollars to build  
2 local capacity to provide summer food service programs and a spring  
3 cycle of grants of up to five thousand dollars for expenses related to  
4 providing outreach and for planning and administrative tasks associated  
5 with initiating a new program. Organizations receiving grants in the  
6 fall cycle must outline target communities, potential service sites,  
7 and partnering organizations in their grant application and provide  
8 background information and evidence of successful community program  
9 development.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The office of the superintendent of public  
11 instruction shall report to the education committees of the legislature  
12 by January 15, 2011, on the use of the grants provided under section 3  
13 of this act and on outcomes related to the summer food service  
14 programs, including the number of children who were provided meals  
15 through the programs in the summer of 2009 and 2010.

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