HOUSE BILL 10

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Willie D. Madrid and Melanie Ann Stansbury

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ELIMINATING REDUCED-PRICE COPAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SCHOOL MEALS--REDUCED-PRICE COPAYMENTS ELIMINATED."

A. As used in this section:

(1) "reduced-price copayment" means the amount a reduced-price-eligible student would be charged for a reduced-price meal; and

(2) "reduced-price-eligible student" means a student who meets the federal income eligibility guidelines for

.216567.2GLG
family-size income levels for meals at a reduced price pursuant
to the national school lunch program and the federal school
breakfast program.

B. School districts and charter schools that
administer a school breakfast or school lunch program shall not
charge a reduced-price-eligible student a reduced-price
copayment for meals.

C. The department shall provide funding to each
school district and charter school that administers a school
breakfast or school lunch program to cover the cost of
eliminating reduced-price copayments. Funding shall be based
on a per-meal basis at the difference between the federal free
meal rate and the reduced-price copayment rate. When
calculating the amount due a school district or charter school,
the department shall assume that the number of reduced-price-
eligible students will remain at the same level as the previous
year. If a school district or charter school has not
previously had a school breakfast program or school lunch
program in which meals were served to reduced-price-eligible
students, the department shall work with the school district or
charter school to determine an accurate estimate of funding for
the program.

D. By August 1 of each year, the department shall
inform school districts and charter schools of the amounts the
school districts and charter schools will receive to offset the

.216567.2GLG

- 2 -
elimination of reduced-price copayments for the upcoming school year. School districts and charter schools are not required to demonstrate their expenses to receive funding pursuant to this section.

E. The department shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including procedures for reimbursing school districts and charter schools."

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Six hundred fifty thousand dollars ($650,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2021 to eliminate reduced-price copayments for public school meal programs. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act apply to the 2020-2021 and subsequent school years.

- 3 -