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§7-704.

(a) In this section, “Program” means the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program.

(b) (1) There is a school breakfast program in the State, known as the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program.

(2) The Program is a joint effort of the Department and the county boards or sponsoring agencies for eligible nonpublic schools.

(c) (1) The purpose of the Program is to provide funding for a school that makes an in-classroom breakfast available to all students in the school.

(2) The funding is intended to complement the funding received by a school from the federal government for a school breakfast program.

(d) The Department shall:

(1) Develop an application form for a school that desires to participate in the Program;

(2) Ensure that the schools that participate in the Program represent geographic and socioeconomic balance statewide;

(3) Ensure that a school that participates in the Program is a school at which at least 40% of the registered students are eligible for the federal free or reduced price meal program;

(4) Select schools to participate in the Program, ensuring that an annual evaluation of the Program is conducted by the Department;

(5) Annually review and set the meal reimbursement rate for schools that participate in the Program to complement the federal meal reimbursement rate determined under § 7-703 of this subtitle; and

(6) Disburse the Program funds to the county board or the sponsoring agency.

(e) A county board or a sponsoring agency for an eligible nonpublic school shall:

(1) Apply to the Department for funds for schools within the jurisdiction of the board or for schools that are under the sponsoring agency that:

(i) Are eligible to participate in the Program; and

(ii) Apply to the board or to the sponsoring agency to participate in the Program; and

(2) Submit an annual report to the Department on the Program, including the manner in which the funds have been expended.

(f) A school that participates in the Program shall:

(1) Implement an in-classroom breakfast program in which all students in the school may participate regardless of family income;

(2) Serve a breakfast that meets the guidelines of the Department and the nutritional standards of the United States Department of Agriculture for schools that participate in the federal school breakfast program;

(3) Serve the breakfast in the classroom upon the arrival of students to the school;

(4) Collect the data that the county board or the sponsoring agency and the Department require from participants in the Program; and

(5) Submit an annual report to the county board or the sponsoring agency.

(g) The employee organization that is the exclusive representative of the certificated public school employees of a county board and the employee organization that is the exclusive representative of the noncertificated employees of a county board and the county board shall negotiate the terms of the participation of the employees in the Program.

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