

Chapter 665

(House Bill 287)

AN ACT concerning

Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017

FOR the purpose of altering a certain definition for certain fiscal years to determine the number of students used to calculate a certain grant for schools that participate in a certain federal program; ~~requiring the superintendent of each local school system to report certain information to the General Assembly on or before a certain date;~~ and generally relating to the compensatory education grant for primary and secondary education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 5–207(a)(3)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5–207.

(a) (3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, “compensatory education enrollment count” means the number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals for the prior fiscal year.

(ii) For fiscal years 2017 [and 2018] **THROUGH 2022**, “compensatory education enrollment count” means:

1. The number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals for the prior fiscal year; or

2. For county boards that participate, in whole or in part, in the United States Department of Agriculture community eligibility provision, the number of students equal to the greater of:

A. The sum of the number of students in participating schools identified by direct certification for the prior fiscal year, plus the number of students identified by the income information provided by the family to the school system on an alternative form developed by the Department for the prior fiscal year, plus the number of

students eligible for free and reduced price meals from any schools not participating in the community eligibility provision for the prior fiscal year; or

B. Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the number of students eligible for free and reduced price meals at schools not participating in the community eligibility provision for the prior fiscal year, plus the product of the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced price meals at participating schools for the fiscal year prior to opting into the community eligibility provision multiplied by the prior fiscal year enrollment.

(iii) For the purpose of the calculation under subparagraph (ii)2B of this paragraph, the schools participating in the community eligibility provision during the pilot year may use the percentage of students identified for free and reduced price meals during the pilot year.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 1, 2017, the superintendent of each local school system shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article:~~

- ~~(1) for each school in the local school system:

 - ~~(i) the total enrollment;~~
 - ~~(ii) the enrollment by free and reduced price meals status;~~
 - ~~(iii) the identified student percentage that would be used to determine eligibility to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture community eligibility provision; and~~
 - ~~(iv) whether each school is currently participating in the Maryland Meals for Achievement program and the amount of State funds provided under the program in the most recently completed fiscal year;~~~~
- ~~(2) for each school system that is not participating in the community eligibility provision in whole or in part:

 - ~~(i) a summary of all meetings and public events held to discuss and gather feedback regarding whether the school system, in whole or in part, should elect to participate in the community eligibility provision;~~
 - ~~(ii) a detailed financial analysis of participating, in whole or in part, in the community eligibility provision;~~
 - ~~(iii) identified barriers to participating, in whole or in part, in the community eligibility provision, including, if applicable, the cost of overcoming the barrier; and~~~~

~~(iv) whether the principal or other appropriate administrator in a school that is eligible to participate in the community eligibility provision recommends that their school participate, including:~~

~~1. the anticipated impact on students, families, and school staff of students having access to free breakfast and lunch under the community eligibility provision; and~~

~~2. if student attendance, tardiness, engagement, test scores, or behavior problems are a concern in the school, the extent of that problem, identified causes, and how participating in the community eligibility provision might influence these concerns; and~~

~~(3) for each school system that is participating in the community eligibility provision in whole or in part:~~

~~(i) for each participating school, a detailed accounting of federal reimbursement received for meals for the fiscal years in which the school participated and cost of providing the meals; and~~

~~(ii) for each participating school, based on information provided by the principal or other appropriate administrator:~~

~~1. the positive and negative impacts of participating;~~

~~2. the impact on students, families, and school staff of students having access to free breakfast and lunch under the community eligibility provision; and~~

~~3. whether, since participating in the community eligibility provision, there has been a change in student attendance, tardiness, engagement, test scores, or behavior, including data to show the change.~~

SECTION ~~3~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.