



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 27, 2025

Honorable Imani Barnes
State Representative
507-B Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 52 0597)

Dear Representative Barnes:

The bill would provide funding to all public schools so that students eligible for free or reduced-price meals receive a school breakfast and lunch at no cost to the student. Additionally, this bill ensures that if federal funding for breakfast programs ceases to exist, the state will provide reimbursement at the same rate per meal served that was in effect during the most recent full school year which federal funds were available.

Currently, \$6.3 million in state funds is appropriated to DOE to cover the full reduced price cost of breakfast and lunch for students who qualify for reduced price meals. Table 1 below shows the current federal funding for free and reduced breakfast. If federal funding for breakfast programs were no longer available, the bill would require the state to spend \$246.1 million to cover current federal spending.

Table 1. Additional Cost for Free Breakfast for All Students

	Meals Served	Federal Funds
Breakfast - \$2.84/meal		
Free	81,661,512	\$231,918,694
Reduced	5,567,049	<u>\$14,140,304</u>
Total (state funds required if federal funds discontinued)		\$246,058,998

Note: The current cost of reduced price meals is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.

Estimates were obtained using data from the 2024 school year. Costs will vary by year based on the number of meals served, student eligibility for federal meal assistance, and the cost per meal.

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mlm