

79.25

ARTICLE 9

79.26

SCHOOL NUTRITION AND LIBRARIES

79.27 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 124D.111, subdivision 3, is
79.28 amended to read:

79.29 Subd. 3. **School food service fund.** (a) The expenses described in this subdivision must
79.30 be recorded as provided in this subdivision.

80.1 (b) In each district, the expenses for a school food service program for pupils must be
80.2 attributed to a school food service fund. Under a food service program, the school food
80.3 service may prepare or serve milk, meals, or snacks in connection with school or community
80.4 service activities.

80.5 (c) Revenues and expenditures for food service activities must be recorded in the food
80.6 service fund. The costs of processing applications, accounting for meals, preparing and
80.7 serving food, providing kitchen custodial services, and other expenses involving the preparing
80.8 of meals or the kitchen section of the lunchroom may be charged to the food service fund
80.9 or to the general fund of the district. The costs of lunchroom supervision, lunchroom custodial
80.10 services, lunchroom utilities, lunchroom furniture, and other administrative costs of the
80.11 food service program must be charged to the general fund.

80.12 That portion of superintendent and fiscal manager costs that can be documented as
80.13 attributable to the food service program may be charged to the food service fund provided
80.14 that the school district does not employ or contract with a food service director or other
80.15 individual who manages the food service program, or food service management company.
80.16 If the cost of the superintendent or fiscal manager is charged to the food service fund, the
80.17 charge must be at a wage rate not to exceed the statewide average for food service directors
80.18 as determined by the department.

80.19 (d) Capital expenditures for the purchase of food service equipment must be made from
80.20 the general fund and not the food service fund, unless the restricted balance in the food
80.21 service fund at the end of the last fiscal year is greater than the cost of the equipment to be
80.22 purchased.

80.23 (e) If the condition set out in paragraph (d) applies, the equipment may be purchased
80.24 from the food service fund.

80.25 (f) If a deficit in the food service fund exists at the end of a fiscal year, and the deficit
80.26 is not eliminated by revenues from food service operations in the next fiscal year, then the
80.27 deficit must be eliminated by a permanent fund transfer from the general fund at the end of
80.28 that second fiscal year. However, if a district contracts with a food service management
80.29 company during the period in which the deficit has accrued, the deficit must be eliminated
80.30 by a payment from the food service management company.

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NUTRITION AND LIBRARIES

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69.27 amended to read:

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69.29 be recorded as provided in this subdivision.

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69.31 attributed to a school food service fund. Under a food service program, the school food
70.1 service may prepare or serve milk, meals, or snacks in connection with school or community
70.2 service activities.

70.3 (c) Revenues and expenditures for food service activities must be recorded in the food
70.4 service fund. The costs of processing applications, accounting for meals, preparing and
70.5 serving food, providing kitchen custodial services, and other expenses involving the preparing
70.6 of meals or the kitchen section of the lunchroom may be charged to the food service fund
70.7 or to the general fund of the district. The costs of lunchroom supervision, lunchroom custodial
70.8 services, lunchroom utilities, lunchroom furniture, and other administrative costs of the
70.9 food service program must be charged to the general fund.

70.10 That portion of superintendent and fiscal manager costs that can be documented as
70.11 attributable to the food service program may be charged to the food service fund provided
70.12 that the school district does not employ or contract with a food service director or other
70.13 individual who manages the food service program, or food service management company.
70.14 If the cost of the superintendent or fiscal manager is charged to the food service fund, the
70.15 charge must be at a wage rate not to exceed the statewide average for food service directors
70.16 as determined by the department.

70.17 (d) Capital expenditures for the purchase of food service equipment must be made from
70.18 the general fund and not the food service fund, unless the restricted balance in the food
70.19 service fund at the end of the last fiscal year is greater than the cost of the equipment to be
70.20 purchased.

70.21 (e) If the condition set out in paragraph (d) applies, the equipment may be purchased
70.22 from the food service fund.

70.23 (f) If a deficit in the food service fund exists at the end of a fiscal year, and the deficit
70.24 is not eliminated by revenues from food service operations in the next fiscal year, then the
70.25 deficit must be eliminated by a permanent fund transfer from the general fund at the end of
70.26 that second fiscal year. However, if a district contracts with a food service management
70.27 company during the period in which the deficit has accrued, the deficit must be eliminated
70.28 by a payment from the food service management company.

80.31 (g) Notwithstanding paragraph (f), a district may incur a deficit in the food service fund
80.32 for up to three years without making the permanent transfer if the district submits to the
80.33 commissioner by January 1 of the second fiscal year a plan for eliminating that deficit at
80.34 the end of the third fiscal year.

81.1 (h) If a surplus in the food service fund exists at the end of a fiscal year for three
81.2 successive years, a district may recode for that fiscal year the costs of lunchroom supervision,
81.3 lunchroom custodial services, lunchroom utilities, lunchroom furniture, and other
81.4 administrative costs of the food service program charged to the general fund according to
81.5 paragraph (c) and charge those costs to the food service fund in a total amount not to exceed
81.6 the amount of surplus in the food service fund.

81.7 (i) For purposes of this subdivision, "lunchroom furniture" means tables and chairs
81.8 regularly used by pupils in a lunchroom from which they may consume milk, meals, or
81.9 snacks in connection with school or community service activities.

81.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for fiscal year 2024 and later.

81.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 127A.45, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

81.12 Subd. 12. **Payment percentage for certain aids.** One hundred percent of the aid for
81.13 the current fiscal year must be paid for the following aids: reimbursement for enrollment
81.14 options transportation; according to sections 124D.03, subdivision 8, and 124D.09,
81.15 subdivision 22, and chapter 124E; school lunch aid, according to section 124D.111; and
81.16 support services aid, for persons who are deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing according to
81.17 section 124D.57.

81.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

70.29 (g) Notwithstanding paragraph (f), a district may incur a deficit in the food service fund
70.30 for up to three years without making the permanent transfer if the district submits to the
70.31 commissioner by January 1 of the second fiscal year a plan for eliminating that deficit at
70.32 the end of the third fiscal year.

70.33 (h) If a surplus in the food service fund exists at the end of a fiscal year for three
70.34 successive years, a district may recode for that fiscal year the costs of lunchroom supervision,
71.1 lunchroom custodial services, lunchroom utilities, lunchroom furniture, and other
71.2 administrative costs of the food service program charged to the general fund according to
71.3 paragraph (c) and charge those costs to the food service fund in a total amount not to exceed
71.4 the amount of surplus in the food service fund.

71.5 (i) For purposes of this subdivision, "lunchroom furniture" means tables and chairs
71.6 regularly used by pupils in a lunchroom from which they may consume milk, meals, or
71.7 snacks in connection with school or community service activities.

71.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for fiscal year 2024 and later.

71.9 Sec. 2. **[127A.151] STATE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN.**

71.10 (a) The Department of Education must employ a state school librarian within the State
71.11 Library Services Division of the department to provide technical assistance to licensed
71.12 school library media specialists and licensed school librarians. The state school librarian
71.13 must be or have been a licensed school library media specialist.

71.14 (b) The responsibilities of the state school librarian include but are not limited to providing
71.15 advice and guidance in academic standards development and statewide library data collection
71.16 from district and charter schools, and related activities. The state school librarian may
71.17 provide advice and guidance to the Department of Education staff responsible for
71.18 administering state library aid and monitoring district compliance. The state school librarian
71.19 must support district and charter schools on issues of intellectual freedom, media and digital
71.20 literacy, and growing lifelong readers. The state school librarian must share information
71.21 about available grant funds and resources, work with the Professional Educator Licensing
71.22 and Standards Board to support licensure acquisition, and support professional development
71.23 for licensed school library media specialists and licensed school librarians.

81.19 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 127A.45, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

81.20 Subd. 13. **Aid payment percentage.** Except as provided in subdivisions 11, 12, 12a,

81.21 ~~and 14, and 14a,~~ each fiscal year, all education aids and credits in this chapter and chapters

81.22 120A, 120B, 121A, 122A, 123A, 123B, 124D, 124E, 125A, 125B, 126C, 134, and section

81.23 273.1392, shall be paid at the current year aid payment percentage of the estimated

81.24 entitlement during the fiscal year of the entitlement. For the purposes of this subdivision,

81.25 a district's estimated entitlement for special education aid under section 125A.76 for fiscal

81.26 year 2014 and later equals 97.4 percent of the district's entitlement for the current fiscal

81.27 year. The final adjustment payment, according to subdivision 9, must be the amount of the

81.28 actual entitlement, after adjustment for actual data, minus the payments made during the

81.29 fiscal year of the entitlement.

81.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

82.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 127A.45, subdivision 14a, is amended to read:

82.2 Subd. 14a. **State nutrition programs.** ~~Notwithstanding subdivision~~ subdivisions 3 and

82.3 13, the state shall pay 100 percent of the aid for the current year according to sections

82.4 124D.111, 124D.1158, and 124D.118 based on submitted monthly vouchers showing meals

82.5 and milk served.

82.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

82.7 Sec. 5. Laws 2023, chapter 18, section 4, subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 2023, chapter

82.8 55, article 9, section 16, and Laws 2024, chapter 81, section 23, is amended to read:

82.9 Subd. 2. **School lunch.** For school lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.111,

82.10 including the amounts for the free school meals program:

71.24 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 134.356, is amended by adding a

71.25 subdivision to read:

71.26 Subd. 3. **Report.** By January 15, 2025, and annually thereafter, the commissioner of

71.27 education must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative

71.28 committees with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education on how school

71.29 districts and charter schools used aid under this section in the previous fiscal year. In

71.30 preparing the report, the commissioner may use information available from the uniform

71.31 financial accounting and reporting system. The report must be filed in accordance with

71.32 section 3.195.

72.1 Sec. 4. Laws 2023, chapter 18, section 4, subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 2023, chapter

72.2 55, article 9, section 16, and Laws 2024, chapter 81, section 23, is amended to read:

72.3 Subd. 2. **School lunch.** For school lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.111,

72.4 including the amounts for the free school meals program:

