

HB 3121 -- SCHOOL MEALS

SPONSOR: Douglas

This bill establishes the "Missouri Free School Meals Program" to reimburse schools for providing free breakfasts and lunches to all students, regardless of whether those students are eligible for free meals under Federal guidelines.

For all tax years after January 1, 2027, taxpayers can deduct up to 75% of any donations made to the "Healthy School Meals For All Fund" that is established under the bill. The provisions of the tax deduction program sunset in six years.

The bill establishes the "Missouri Free School Meals Program" and provides for voluntary participation in the Program for charter, public, and private schools. School must provide to all students at no cost, up to two meals per school day, with a maximum of one free breakfast and one free lunch. Schools must also seek all sources of Federal funding available.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must reimburse a school that participates in the Missouri Free School Meals Program in an amount equal to the difference between the Federal reimbursement rate for a free meal and the actual reimbursement received by the school. The Department must submit a report to the General Assembly with participation rates, reduction in food insecurities, and the Program costs and efficiencies.

This bill is similar to HB 2613 (2026).