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AN ACT  
RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ELIMINATING REDUCED-PRICE  
COPAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is  
enacted to read:

"SCHOOL MEALS--REDUCED-PRICE COPAYMENTS ELIMINATED.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "reduced-price copayment" means the  
amount a reduced-price-eligible student would be charged for  
a reduced-price meal; and

(2) "reduced-price-eligible student" means a  
student who meets the federal income eligibility guidelines  
for family-size income levels for meals at a reduced price  
pursuant to the national school lunch program and the federal  
school breakfast program.

B. School districts and charter schools that  
administer a school breakfast or school lunch program shall  
not charge a reduced-price-eligible student a reduced-price  
copayment for meals.

C. The department shall provide funding to each  
school district and charter school that administers a school  
breakfast or school lunch program to cover the cost of  
eliminating reduced-price copayments. Funding shall be based

1 on a per-meal basis at the difference between the federal  
2 free meal rate and the reduced-price copayment rate. When  
3 calculating the amount due a school district or charter  
4 school, the department shall assume that the number of  
5 reduced-price-eligible students will remain at the same level  
6 as the previous year. If a school district or charter school  
7 has not previously had a school breakfast program or school  
8 lunch program in which meals were served to reduced-price-  
9 eligible students, the department shall work with the school  
10 district or charter school to determine an accurate estimate  
11 of funding for the program.

12 D. By August 1 of each year, the department shall  
13 inform school districts and charter schools of the amounts  
14 the school districts and charter schools will receive to  
15 offset the elimination of reduced-price copayments for the  
16 upcoming school year. School districts and charter schools  
17 are not required to demonstrate their expenses to receive  
18 funding pursuant to this section.

19 E. The department shall promulgate rules necessary  
20 to implement the provisions of this section, including  
21 procedures for reimbursing school districts and charter  
22 schools."

23 SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act  
24 apply to the 2020-2021 and subsequent school years. \_\_\_\_\_