

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8486

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to provide for technical assistance relating to nutrition standards for school meal programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2022

Mr. MRVAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to provide for technical assistance relating to nutrition standards for school meal programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Child Nutrition Tech-
5 nical Assistance Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL FOOD SERV-**
2 **ICE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Richard B. Russell National
4 School Lunch Act is amended by inserting after section
5 21 (42 U.S.C. 1769b–1) the following:

6 **“SEC. 21A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL FOOD**
7 **SERVICE.**

8 “(a) THIRD PARTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
9 GRANTS.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall
11 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible enti-
12 ties to provide technical assistance to food service
13 personnel to assist such personnel in meeting the
14 nutrition standards for the school lunch program
15 under this Act and the school breakfast program es-
16 tablished by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of
17 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

18 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this sub-
19 section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity
20 that—

21 “(A) is—

22 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

23 “(ii) a land-grant college and univer-
24 sity or cooperative extension service (as
25 such terms are defined in section 1404 of
26 the National Agricultural Research, Exten-

1 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
2 U.S.C. 3103));

3 “(iii) a technical or vocational school;
4 or

5 “(iv) an institution of higher edu-
6 cation (as such term is defined in section
7 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));

9 “(B) has demonstrated success in pro-
10 viding, or has capacity for, teaching through
11 online learning, including by—

12 “(i) providing online courses;

13 “(ii) using online forums for partici-
14 pant interaction;

15 “(iii) using online teaching tools; and

16 “(iv) providing online educational con-
17 tent; and

18 “(C) has experience working with food
19 service personnel that are participating in the
20 school lunch program under this Act and the
21 school breakfast program established by section
22 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
23 1773).

24 “(3) REGIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In awarding
25 grants to eligible entities under subsection (a), the

Secretary shall select at least 1 eligible entity located
in a State in each of the following regions:

“(A) The Mid-Atlantic Region.

“(B) The Midwest Region.

“(C) The Mountain Plains Region.

“(D) The Northeast Region.

“(E) The Southern Region.

“(F) The Southwest Region.

“(G) The Western Region.

“(4) GRANT USES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that
receives a grant under this subsection shall use
such grant funds to provide technical assistance
to food service personnel in accordance with
subparagraph (B).

“(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED.—Technical assistance provided by such
eligible entity shall—

“(i) assist food service personnel with
meeting the quantitative recommendations
from the most recent Dietary Guidelines
for Americans published under section 301
of the National Nutrition Monitoring and
Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
5341);

1 “(ii) emphasize meeting the nutrition
2 requirements relating to—

3 “(I) sodium;

4 “(II) whole grains; and

5 “(III) added sugars; and

6 “(iii) provide—

7 “(I) standardized recipes and
8 menus and assistance with menu plan-
9 ning;

10 “(II) information on procurement
11 of products that meet the nutrition
12 standards, including assistance with
13 vendors, food companies, and bid
14 preparation;

15 “(III) culinary training, food
16 presentation, and the promotion and
17 marketing of menu items that support
18 selection and consumption of such
19 menu items; and

20 “(IV) best practices, trainings
21 (including peer-to-peer trainings), and
22 other resources.

23 “(b) EVALUATION GRANTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
25 grants to eligible entities to evaluate the effective-

1 ness of the technical assistance grants awarded
2 under subsection (a).

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this sub-
4 section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity
5 that—

6 “(A) is—

7 “(i) a land-grant college and univer-
8 sity or cooperative extension service (as
9 such terms are defined in section 1404 of
10 the National Agricultural Research, Exten-
11 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
12 U.S.C. 3103)); or

13 “(ii) an institution of higher education
14 (as such term is defined in section 101(a)
15 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
16 U.S.C. 1001(a))); and

17 “(B) has not received funds under sub-
18 section (a).

19 “(3) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking
20 a grant under this subsection shall submit to the
21 Secretary an application in such form, at such time,
22 and containing such information as the Secretary
23 determines appropriate.

24 “(4) EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 6 months
25 after the date on which an eligible entity receives a

1 grant under this subsection, such eligible entity shall
2 submit to the Secretary the evaluation described in
3 paragraph (1).

4 “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
6 retary to carry out this subsection \$35,000,000 for
7 each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

8 “(c) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TECHNICAL
9 ASSISTANCE.—

10 “(1) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TECH-
11 NICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall—

12 “(A) provide technical assistance required
13 under section 9(a)(1)(B) and section 21(b) to
14 schools administering the school lunch program
15 under this Act and the school breakfast pro-
16 gram established by section 4 of the Child Nu-
17 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), including
18 by—

19 “(i) developing and distributing train-
20 ing and technical assistance material; and

21 “(ii) working with the school food in-
22 dustry in meeting the nutrition standards;

23 “(B) provide technical assistance that con-
24 forms with the quantitative recommendations in
25 the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Ameri-

1 cans published under section 301 of the Na-
2 tional Nutrition Monitoring and Related Re-
3 search Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341) and that—

4 “(i) provides—

5 “(I) standardized recipes, menu
6 cycles, information regarding nutrient
7 standard menu planning, assisted nu-
8 trient standard menu planning, and
9 food-based menu planning;

10 “(II) information on strong pro-
11 curement practices that allow schools
12 to bid or write specifications on prod-
13 ucts that meet the standards;

14 “(III) culinary training, food
15 presentation, and the promotion and
16 marketing of menu items that support
17 selection and consumption of such
18 menu items; and

19 “(IV) best practices, trainings
20 (including peer-to-peer trainings), and
21 other resources; and

22 “(ii) supports the implementation of
23 recognition programs that include or are
24 similar to the HealthierUS School Chal-
25 lenge; and

1 “(C) provide grants to State agencies to
2 provide technical assistance described in this
3 paragraph.

4 “(2) SCHOOLS WITH CHALLENGES.—In pro-
5 viding technical assistance under subparagraphs (A)
6 and (B) of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

7 “(A) give priority to schools that have—

8 “(i) requested technical assistance
9 from the Department of Agriculture relat-
10 ing to sodium, whole grains, or added sug-
11 ars;

12 “(ii) participated in a technical assist-
13 ance program administered by the Sec-
14 retary relating to nutrition requirements;
15 or

16 “(iii) submitted a waiver relating to
17 the whole grain-rich requirement; and

18 “(B) give priority to schools with a certain
19 percentage (as determined by the Secretary) of
20 students receiving free or reduced price meals.

21 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this subsection \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years
24 2023 through 2027.

1 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
 2 of the enactment of this section, and every 5 years there-
 3 after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
 4 that—

5 “(1) describes the technical assistance provided
 6 under the programs established under subsections
 7 (a) and (c); and

8 “(2) evaluates, including by using data from an
 9 evaluation conducted using a grant provided under
 10 subsection (b), the extent to which schools that re-
 11 ceived technical assistance have met the nutrition re-
 12 quirements established by the Secretary pursuant to
 13 this Act.”.

14 (b) PERFORMANCE-BASED REIMBURSEMENT IN-
 15 CREASE.—Section 4(b)(3) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
 16 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(3)) is amend-
 17 ed—

18 (1) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “6
 19 cents” and inserting “10 cents”; and

20 (2) in subparagraph (D)—

21 (A) by striking “To be eligible” and insert-
 22 ing the following:

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible”;

24 and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(ii) REPORT.—The Secretary shall
2 make publicly available on the website of
3 the Department and update on a quarterly
4 basis a list of school food authorities cer-
5 tified to be in compliance in accordance
6 with clause (i).”.

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