ARTICLE 9
SCHOOL NUTRITION AND LIBRARIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) If a deficit in the food service fund exists at the end of a fiscal year, and the deficit is not eliminated by revenues from food service operations in the next fiscal year, then the deficit must be eliminated by a permanent fund transfer from the general fund at the end of that second fiscal year. However, if a district contracts with a food service management company during the period in which the deficit has accrued, the deficit must be eliminated by a payment from the food service management company.
(g) Notwithstanding paragraph (f), a district may incur a deficit in the food service fund for up to three years without making the permanent transfer if the district submits to the commissioner by January 1 of the second fiscal year a plan for eliminating that deficit at the end of the third fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.
Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 127A.45, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

Subd. 13. Aid payment percentage. Except as provided in subdivisions 11, 12, 12a, and 14, and 14a, each fiscal year, all education aids and credits in this chapter and chapters 120A, 120B, 121A, 122A, 123A, 123B, 124D, 124E, 125A, 125B, 126C, 127A, 127B, 128A, 129A, 130A, 131A, 131B, and section 273.1392, shall be paid at the current year aid payment percentage of the estimated entitlement during the fiscal year of the entitlement. For the purposes of this subdivision, a district's estimated entitlement for special education aid under section 125A.76 for fiscal year 2014 and later equals 97.4 percent of the district's entitlement for the current fiscal year. The final adjustment payment, according to subdivision 9, must be the amount of the actual entitlement, after adjustment for actual data, minus the payments made during the fiscal year of the entitlement.

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

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

Subd. 14a. State nutrition programs. Nowithstanding subdivisions 3 and 13, the state shall pay 100 percent of the aid for the current year according to sections 124D.111, 124D.115b, and 124D.118 based on submitted monthly vouchers showing meals and milk served.

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

Sec. 5. Laws 2023, chapter 18, section 4, subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 2023, chapter 55, article 9, section 16, and Laws 2024, chapter 81, section 23, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. School lunch. For school lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.111, including the amounts for the free school meals program:
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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

**Subd. 3. School breakfast.** For school breakfast aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.1158:

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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

**REVISOR INSTRUCTION:** The revisor of statutes shall renumber Minnesota Statutes, section 134.356, as Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.992, and make any necessary changes to statutory cross-references to reflect these changes.