

Improving Charter School Nutrition (AB 1594: Eng)

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Amendment Summary

AB 1594 (Eng) would extend the needy-student meal mandate to California's charter schools, ensuring that all low-income students have access to essential nutrition benefits, whether attending a traditional public school or a public charter school.

On May 30, 2012, AB 1594 passed out of the Assembly with a 51-26 vote. As amended, AB 1594 is responsive to the needs of charter schools while improving access to nutritious, affordable meals for all low-income public school students.

Amendments (italicized)	Impact
4760.1 (a) A charter school shall provide each needy pupil with one nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 49553, during each school day. (b) This section does not apply to a charter school that offers only non-classroom based instruction or only online instruction. <i>This section does not require a charter school that offers both classroom-based instruction and non-classroom based instruction or online instruction to provide a meal to pupils enrolled in only non-classroom-based instruction or only online instruction.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recognizes that some charter school students do not attend school in a traditional classroom setting and therefore could not be provided access to a meal
(c) <i>A charter school that becomes operational for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, shall implement this section when the school begins operation.</i> (d) <i>A charter school that during the 2012-13 school year provided needy pupils with nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meals shall implement this section commencing with the 2013-14 school year.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maximizes the impact of the proposed requirement by ensuring ongoing access to meals for current, eligible charter school students and immediate access for future, eligible charter school students
(e) <i>A charter school that during the 2012-13 school year did not provide needy pupils with nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meals shall implement this section immediately following the next scheduled charter renewal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Staggers implementation to provide administrative relief for individual schools and for the Department of EducationEnsures that, over time, all low-income charter school students will have access to nutritious, affordable meals
(f) <i>If implementation of this section creates a demonstrable financial hardship, a charter school may submit a request for a time-limited hardship waiver from the state board 90 days before the last state board meeting of the fiscal year. The state board may grant a two-year waiver of a request submitted pursuant to this subdivision.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recognizes that some charter schools may need more time to develop a plan for effectively meeting the meal requirement