

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVE LAFLEUR

SCHOOLS: Provides for the administration of food insecurity screenings to public school students

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2113 and 3996(B)(24), relative to student screenings; to require the
3 administration of food insecurity screenings to public school students; to provide for
4 the frequency of screenings; to provide for the confidentiality of results; to provide
5 for referrals to resources and services; to provide for the selection of the screening
6 tool; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:2113 and 3996(B)(24) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2113. Food insecurity screening programs

10 A. Each city, parish, and other local public school board shall establish a
11 program for screening students for food insecurity at schools and school-based health
12 clinics.

13 B. The program shall include the administration of a screening tool to
14 students in grades kindergarten through twelve when a student first enrolls in a
15 school and once during each semester of enrollment thereafter. Additionally, the
16 screening tool shall be incorporated into assessment protocols when a student visits
17 a school-based health clinic.

18 C. The program shall provide for standardized procedures in the event of
19 screening results that indicate that a student is at risk for food insecurity, including
20 but not limited to family outreach and referral to community resources such as

1 school meal and food pantry programs, local food banks and pantries, public
2 assistance application information, and local social services.

3 D. The screening results shall remain confidential except for disclosure to
4 a student's parent or legal guardian or to the student if he has reached the age of
5 majority or is an emancipated minor and to authorized school personnel responsible
6 for the implementation of referral procedures as provided in Subsection C of this
7 Section.

8 E. The state Department of Education, in consultation with the Louisiana
9 Department of Health, shall select a food insecurity screening tool that is available
10 at no cost to the state or to school boards and that is age-appropriate for students and
11 shall provide information about how to access this tool to each school board.

12 F. No school employees shall use the results of a screening to make any
13 decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.

14 * * *

15 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

16 * * *

17 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
18 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
19 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
20 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
21 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
22 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
23 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

24 * * *

25 (24) Food insecurity screening programs, R.S. 17:2113.

26 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 218 Original

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LaFleur

Abstract: Requires the administration of screenings for food insecurity to public school students.

Proposed law:

- (1) Requires school boards to establish a program for screening students for food insecurity at schools and school-based health clinics, including the administration of a screening tool to students in grades kindergarten through 12 when a student first enrolls in a school and once during each semester of enrollment thereafter. Requires incorporation of the screening tool into assessments at student visits to school-based health clinics.
- (2) Requires that program to provide for standardized procedures in the event of screening results that indicate that a student is at risk for food insecurity, including but not limited to family outreach and referral to community resources.
- (3) Requires that results remain confidential except for disclosure to a student's parent or legal guardian or to the student if he has reached the age of majority or is an emancipated minor and to authorized school personnel responsible for the implementation of procedures for such referral.
- (4) Requires that the state Dept. of Education, in consultation with the La. Dept. of Health, select a food insecurity screening tool that is available at no cost to the state or to school boards and age-appropriate for students and provide information about how to access this tool to each school board.
- (5) Prohibits school employees from using the results of the screening to make any decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.

Proposed law is applicable to all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:2113 and 3996(B)(24))