



House and Senate FY2019 Agriculture Appropriations Bills

Topic	Summary	House Bill	Senate Bill
Administrative Reviews	Encourages the Secretary of Agriculture to return to five year inspection cycles for schools consistently complying with Federal standards.		<p><i>Administrative Reviews.</i> —The Committee understands the importance of the formal administrative reviews state agencies conduct as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. However, the Committee encourages the Secretary to return to the 5-year inspection cycle for schools that consistently comply with Federal standards to allow state agencies more flexibility in performing their oversight and on-sight technical assistance roles. High-risk schools that do not consistently comply with Federal regulations should continue to be reviewed on a more frequent basis. The Committee also encourages FNS to assist state agencies in collaborating with one another when identifying risk factors to ensure that the administrative review process is effective and consistent nationwide. ^R</p>
Equipment Grants	Authorizes \$30,000,000 for grants to State agencies, to be subgranted to local education agencies for: equipment purchases over \$1,000; serving healthier meals; improving food safety; or creating, maintaining, or expanding a breakfast program.	<p><i>Provided further,</i> That of the total amount available, \$30,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program ^B</p>	<p><i>Provided further,</i> That of the total amount available, \$30,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program ^B</p>
Food Waste	Encourages the Secretary of Agriculture to review current regulations on school meal patterns, including those dealing with serving dairy products and smart snacks, to ensure they maximize participation in programs, maintain healthy requirements, and do not impose additional costs on schools. It also encourages USDA to provide schools with flexibility to use leftover compliant foods in a manner consistent with food safety requirements.	<p><i>School Meals.</i> —The Secretary has taken positive steps to provide greater flexibility and restore local control in serving healthy meals. The Committee urges the Secretary to review the regulations on school meals, including school meal patterns such as the requirements around serving dairy products, and smart snacks in schools that will ensure the regulations do not cost schools additional funding, maximizes participation, and maintains healthy requirements in schools. As a part of this review the Secretary shall look at research that is based on student-age individuals and shall consult with local stakeholders, including school superintendents, school board members, school leaders, and school food service personnel.</p> <p>Food waste also remains a concern in the school meals program. Schools should have the ability to serve leftover compliant foods in a quick, timely manner in accordance with food safety requirements. The Committee urges USDA to consider implementing flexibilities in allowing schools to utilize these foods in a more efficient manner. ^R</p>	

Topic	Summary	House Bill	Senate Bill
Paid Lunch Equity (Determination Deadline)	Establishes December 31, 2018 as the deadline to make a determination under Paid Lunch Equity provisions for the 2019-2020 school year.	SEC. 757. For school year 2019–2020, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2018, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with Section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1760(p). ^B	
Paid Lunch Equity (Financial Management Tool)	Requests that the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service provide guidance for alternative tools for schools to assist in financial management documentation.	Financial Management Tools. —School food authorities would benefit from consolidating financial reports that are required in 7 CFR 210.19(a)(1). The tools that are available to help schools meet this requirement can be cumbersome. The Committee directs FNS to provide guidance within 60 days of enactment of this Act on the content of an alternative financial tool that schools may have in place for the purpose of providing the required financial management documentation. ^R	
School Breakfast Program Commodities	Provides \$20,000,000 in funding for School Breakfast Program commodities.	SEC. 715... Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$485,000,000 ^B (Note: This reflects an increase of \$20,000,000, to be directed to the School Breakfast Program)	SEC. 715... Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$485,000,000 ^B (Note: This reflects an increase of \$20,000,000, to be directed to the School Breakfast Program)
Sodium	Prohibits the Food and Drug Administration from issuing regulations for sodium reduction until a dietary reference intake report for sodium is completed.		SEC. 750. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration to develop, issue, promote, or advance any regulations applicable to food manufacturers for population-wide sodium reduction actions or to develop, issue, promote or advance final guidance applicable to food manufacturers for long term population-wide sodium reduction actions until the date on which a dietary reference intake report with respect to sodium is completed. ^B
Whole Grain Waivers	Encourages the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to simplify the process for applying for a waiver to the Department's whole grain requirement.		Whole Grain Waivers. —The Committee encourages FNS to simplify the process for School Food Authorities applying for a whole grain waiver to make the process faster and more user-friendly. ^R
^B Bill Language, carries the force of law if passed			
^R Report Language, accompanies the bill and provides instructions/recommendations to USDA on how to implement the legislation; does not carry the force of law			
Shaded Cells	No provisions were included in either the Bill or Report Language		