



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #3: Food Service Expenditures

Full name of School District: Becker Public Schools

Full name of individual submitting for the school board: Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board: Superintendent

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This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.

Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution: September 9, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:

Allow for broader use of food service funds to incorporate all purchases that improve the functionality of cafeteria, food preparation, storage, and food service areas. This includes the allocation of funds from the food service fund for renovations and modernization of serving areas and lunchrooms to improve efficiency, safety, and the overall dining experience for students, with pre-approval from MDE.

DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:

Currently, there are federal restrictions that prohibit certain expenditures using the food service fund. With the addition of fully funded food service programming for all students due to additional state funding, there is a need to broaden the use of the food service fund to allow spending on any food service-related purchases. Current restrictions do not permit spending on certain new components such as opportunities to increase efficiency, comfort, flow of students, and more.

EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:

Food service funding is now fully funded. In order to provide a better experience and offer proper choices for students, it would be beneficial if any related food service costs were able to be purchased using funds generated from universal meals for all. The restrictions on spending limit the ability of schools to make necessary upgrades and improvements to their food service facilities, thereby hindering the efficiency and quality of the services provided to students. This is particularly a problem due to the increase in meals being served within districts across the state.

PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Current Statute and Legislative Changes: The recent legislative session included an addition to the statute that allows districts to recode costs related to lunchroom supervision, custodial services, utilities, and furniture to the food service fund if a surplus exists for three successive years. However, this is still limited and does not cover all necessary expenditures for renovations and modernization to improve efficiencies.

Testimony: Last year, Dr. Jeremy Schmidt testified before the Education Finance Committee, advocating for the expansion of permissible uses of the food service fund. He highlighted the challenges faced by Becker Public Schools, including a significant increase in student participation in school lunches, which has strained the existing facilities and resources. Dr. Schmidt emphasized the need for renovations and improvements to meet the growing demand and improve efficiency. The testimony was partially successful adding allowances to purchase tables with food service funds, but we can continue to improve our eating spaces for optimal performance using these funds.

Student Participation Rates and Financial Data: Becker Public Schools has experienced a substantial increase in student participation rates in both breakfast and lunch programs since the implementation of free meals for all. The district's data shows a 15-23% increase in lunch participation across different schools and a 26% increase in breakfast participation at the primary school level. This surge in participation underscores the need for expanded food service facilities and related expenditures.

For MSBA Staff Use Only:

Date Received: Click or tap to enter a date.

File Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Category: Choose an item.

Recommendation: Choose an item.

Present Position(s): Click or tap here to enter text.