

for the public schools which may hereafter be made out of the federal treasury by an act or acts of Congress and any additional funds directed to the State Board of Education by acts of Congress or federal regulation and the State Board of Education shall be constituted the educational authority for the expenditure and administration of any such funds.

All moneys received by the State from such appropriations for educational purposes or *subsidized and/or free lunches* FEEDING programs that may hereafter be made by any act or acts of Congress shall be received into the State treasury and the Treasurer is hereby authorized, upon warrant of the Comptroller, to receive and provide for the proper custody of same and to make disbursements therefrom upon the order of the State Board of Education according to the procedure of the State treasury department.

126.

(a) *Every public school throughout the State shall provide a program of subsidized and/or free lunches FEEDING PROGRAMS for the benefit of children meeting such standards as are promulgated and published by the State Board of Education (this program being in addition to, and not in lieu of, any Federal programs).*

(B) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A STATE FREE FEEDING PROGRAM. EACH YEAR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A PROGRAM OF SUBSIDIZED AND/OR FREE FEEDING PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS PROMULGATED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) HEREIN. ~~THE AMOUNT OF THE REQUIRED FUNDS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE REQUESTED APPROPRIATION FOR THE GENERAL STATE SCHOOL FUND. FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE STATE FREE FEEDING PROGRAM INCLUDING ANY FEDERAL FUNDS SUCH AMOUNT AS SHALL BE INCLUDED FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET, INCLUDING ANY FEDERAL FUNDS, AND AS SUBMITTED TO AND APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF SECTION 127 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

(b) (C) *In the enactment of this requirement for a program of subsidized and/or free lunches FEEDING PROGRAMS for the benefit of children in the public schools, the General Assembly makes this statement of public policy: The Maryland Commission on Childhood Nutrition has estimated that 90,000 school children in this State need a free or reduced price school lunch. This need is acute for the welfare of the children and to assure their satisfactory progress in school studies. Children of school age, and particularly those in elementary grades, risk permanent physical and mental damage if they suffer from malnutrition. It is vital to the health and progress of the child and a necessity in assuring a healthful and educated younger generation that this program be initiated and steadfastly continued. Only by such a program may the General Assembly make certain that at least once each day all its developing children achieve a basic, balanced, and nutritional meal.*