

Schools shall determine the amount of State [funds that will be] MONEYS required to provide a program of subsidized and/or free feeding programs in accordance with the standards promulgated under subsection (a) herein. 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 § 127 of this article.

(C) FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE SUBSIDIZED AND/OR FREE FEEDING PROGRAM SHALL BE UTILIZED TO REIMBURSE THE COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY FOR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COSTS AND ALL AVAILABLE REIMBURSEMENTS AND OTHER FUNDS, INCLUDING THE AMOUNTS PAID BY CHILDREN.

[(c)] (D) In the enactment of this requirement for a program of subsidized and/or free 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.

[(d)] (E) The General Assembly further states these desirable policies in the administration and application of the school feeding programs herein provided:

(1) Private organizations and corporations should be encouraged to participate in the program.

(2) The identity of children participating in free or subsidized feeding programs should remain anonymous, and positive procedures should be adopted to this end.

(3) Applications to participants in the program should be brief and simple, based upon a statement of present income AND FAMILY SIZE or of participation in a social services or welfare program.

(4) There shall be no discrimination among these programs for elementary, junior high, and high