

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1878**

Chapter 7, Laws of 2022

67th Legislature  
2022 Regular Session

SCHOOL MEALS—COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 4, 2022

Passed by the House February 10, 2022  
Yeas 93 Nays 3

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LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate February 25,  
2022  
Yeas 45 Nays 4

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DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 4, 2022 11:44 AM

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JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1878** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 4, 2022

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1878**

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Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      67th Legislature                      2022 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Leavitt, Maycumber, Santos, Stonier, Wicks, Peterson, Shewmake, Taylor, Gregerson, Ormsby, Lekanoff, Fitzgibbon, Orwall, Harris, Ramel, Thai, and Valdez)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/22.

1            AN ACT Relating to increasing public school participation in the  
2 community eligibility provision of the United States department of  
3 agriculture; amending RCW 28A.235.300; creating a new section; and  
4 declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.235.300 and 2020 c 288 s 3 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8            (1) (a) Except as provided otherwise by this section, each public  
9 school ~~((with students in or below grade eight))~~ that has an  
10 identified student percentage of at least ~~((sixty-two and one-half))~~  
11 40 percent, or an identified student percentage of less than 40  
12 percent if authorized by federal law, as determined annually by April  
13 1st, must participate in the United States department of  
14 agriculture's community eligibility provision in the subsequent  
15 school year and throughout the duration of the community eligibility  
16 provision's four-year cycle.

17            (b) School districts, to the extent practicable, shall group  
18 public schools for purposes of maximizing the number of public  
19 schools eligible to participate in the community eligibility  
20 provision. Individual schools participating in a group may have less

1 than 40 percent identified students, provided the average identified  
2 student percentage for the group is at least 40 percent.

3 (2) (~~Schools~~) Public schools that, through an arrangement with  
4 a local entity, provide meals to all students and at no costs to the  
5 students are exempt from the requirements of this section.

6 (3) This section governs school operation and management under  
7 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020, and applies to charter schools  
8 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education  
9 compact schools established under chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same  
10 extent as it applies to public schools and school districts.

11 (4) For the purposes of this section, "identified student" means  
12 a student who is directly certified for free school meals based on  
13 the student's participation in other means-tested assistance  
14 programs, and students who are categorically eligible for free school  
15 meals without an application and not subject to income verification.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If specific funding for the purposes of  
17 section 1 of this act, referencing section 1 of this act by bill or  
18 chapter number and section number, is not provided by June 30, 2022,  
19 in the omnibus operating appropriations act, section 1 of this act is  
20 null and void.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate  
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
23 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
24 effect immediately.

Passed by the House February 10, 2022.  
Passed by the Senate February 25, 2022.  
Approved by the Governor March 4, 2022.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 4, 2022.

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