Funding of School Food Service Programs

Summary

As required in the Biennial Operating Budget (2ESHB 1087, 2011 session), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to report annually to the Fiscal Committees of the Legislature on the amount of funding provided in support of school food service programs.

Background

State funding of $7,111,000 was provided for school food service programs in FY 2012 to:

(a) support the elimination of breakfast copays for eligible public school students and lunch copays for eligible public school students in grades kindergarten through third grade who are eligible for reduced price lunch;

(b) provide assistance to school districts and authorized public and private nonprofit organizations for supporting summer food service programs and initiating new summer food service programs in low-income areas;

(c) provide reimbursements to school districts for school breakfasts served to students eligible for free and reduced price lunch pursuant to chapter 287, Laws 2005; and

(d) provide assistance to school districts in initiating and expanding school breakfast programs.

Report

Of the funds appropriated, the following was spent by category in FY 2012:

(a) Elimination of Copays $ 2,120,256.63
(b) Summer Food Service Program $ 159,164.76
(c) Breakfast Assistance $ 4,618,623.57
(d) Breakfast Meals for Kids Grants $ 101,302.00

Total Funds Expended $ 6,999,346.96

The difference in the amount appropriated as compared to spent is related to funds specifically set aside in (b) Summer Food Service Program of
$70,000.00 and (d) Breakfast Meals for Kids Grants of $201,000, which is specifically set aside for competitive grants. In awarding the grants, OSPI was only able to reimburse grantees in the amount of $59,164.76 for (b) and $101,302.00 for (d).

For More Information

For more information regarding School Food Service Programs, please see http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/default.aspx or contact Donna Parsons, State Director, Child Nutrition Services, at (360) 725-6200 or donna.parsons@k12.wa.us.