

House Bill 993

By: Representatives Barnes of the 86<sup>th</sup>, McQueen of the 61<sup>st</sup>, Drenner of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Taylor of the 92<sup>nd</sup>, Lupton of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act,"  
3 so as to require that public schools schedule a lunch period for each class that includes not  
4 less than 30 consecutive minutes of seated time beginning from the time that a majority of  
5 the class has been seated after receiving their meals; to require local boards of education or  
6 other public school governing bodies to establish certain policies; to require the State Board  
7 of Education to promulgate rules and regulations; to authorize the State Board of Education  
8 to provide grants; to provide a definition; to provide for related matters; to provide a short  
9 title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Nourish to Flourish Act."

**SECTION 2.**

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Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-323.1.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'seated time' means the time that a student has to eat his or her meal during the lunch period, excluding time spent waiting in line to receive such meal.

(b) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each public school shall schedule a daily lunch period for each class that includes not less than 30 consecutive minutes of seated time beginning from the time that a majority of the class has been seated after receiving their meals.

(c) Each local board of education or other public school governing body shall establish a written policy requiring a daily lunch period for each class that includes not less than 30 consecutive minutes of seated time beginning from the time that a majority of the class has been seated after receiving their meals. Such policies shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following matters to ensure that all students have sufficient time to eat lunch during the lunch period:

(1) Scheduling strategies for lunch periods;

(2) Staffing patterns for school lunch personnel; and

(3) Strategies and methods to minimize the time students spend waiting in line to receive meals.

(d) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations which provide that each local school system or other public school shall submit an annual report to the Department of Education that shall include:

(1) The policy established pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section; and

(2) The lunch period schedule for each public school.

40 (e) Subject to appropriations, the State Board of Education shall be authorized to provide  
41 grants to local school systems or other public schools for the purpose of implementing the  
42 provisions of this Code section if a local school system or other public school requires  
43 funding in excess of the funding provided for in Code Section 20-2-187 in order to  
44 implement the provisions of this Code section."

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.