

(c) Suspension of ballot language requirement. Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 563(11)(D), which requires specified language for a school budget ballot, this requirement is suspended during fiscal years 2025–2029.

* * * Universal Income Declaration Form * * *

Sec. 9. UNIVERSAL INCOME DECLARATION FORM

(a) It is the intention of the General Assembly that, beginning with the 2023–24 school year and thereafter, the determination of whether a pupil is from an economically deprived background be changed from qualification for nutrition benefits to eligibility based upon family income of 185 percent or less of the current year Federal Poverty Level, with data collected from a universal income declaration form.

(b) A universal income declaration form is used by some other states and school districts in Vermont with universal school meals programs to collect household size and income information. A universal income declaration form is used to collect income bracket information from all families, reducing stigma and resulting in the collection of more accurate pupil eligibility counts throughout a school district.

(c) On or before October 1, 2022, the Agency of Education shall convene a working group that includes school staff and hunger and nutrition experts to develop the universal income declaration form that shall be fully accessible to all Vermont families both in paper form and electronically. On or before

July 1, 2023, the new form shall be implemented statewide for the 2023–24 school year and thereafter.

(d) The Agency of Education shall establish a process for verifying the accuracy of data collected through the universal income declaration form on a community level, which may include using other sources of income data available to the Agency, including census and direct certification for free and reduced-priced meals.

(e) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education for fiscal year 2023 to fund operating expenses associated with the creation of the electronic universal income declaration form.

* * * English Learners * * *

Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 4013 is added to read:

§ 4013. ENGLISH LEARNERS SERVICES; STATE AID

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Applicable federal laws” mean the Equal Education Opportunities Act (20 U.S.C. § 1703), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.), and Titles I and III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. §§ 6301 et seq. and 20 U.S.C. §§ 6801 et seq.), each as amended.