

Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights and Working-Class Families Anti-Hunger Act

Requires school meal debt information to be provided to parents directly; establishes protocols for identifying eligible students for school meal programs; prohibits stigmatizing students with bill in arrears. To ensure compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 33-21, SFAs must ensure that all meal charge policies are updated for the current School Year.

If money is owed for equivalent of five or more meals, a district shall:

- * Determine if the student is eligible for a free or reduced price meals
- * Make at least two attempts, *not including the application or instructions provided in the beginning of the school year*, to contact the student's parent or guardian and have them fill out an application for the school meal program
- * Require a principal, or a person designated by the principal, to contact the parent or guardian to offer assistance with the application
- * Determine if there are other issues in the household that have caused the child to have insufficient funds to purchase school meals and offer any other appropriate assistance.



A school district CANNOT:

- * Publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a school meal: *examples, requiring that the student sit at a separate table or wear a wristband, hand stamp, or identifying mark or serving the student an alternative meal*
- * Require a student to do chores or other work to pay for the school meal
- * Require a student to discard a school meal after it has been served to the student
- * Prohibit an unsubsidized student, or a sibling of such a student, from attending or participating in non-fee-based extracurricular activities, field trips, or school events, from receiving grades, official transcripts, or report cards, or from graduating or attending graduation events, solely because of the student's unresolved debt
- * Require the parent or guardian of an unsubsidized student to pay fees or costs in excess of the actual amount owed for meals previously served to the student.



If a student's school meal bill is in arrears:

- * Parent or guardian will be notified directly
- * Parent or guardian are given 10 school days to pay the amount due
- * If full payment is not met by the end of the 10 school days, then a notification will be sent to parent or guardian of any action to be taken by the school district in response to a student' bill being in arrears

