

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's bill being in arrears**

