

New Jersey Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act

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 designated 10 school day period, then a notification will be sent to the parent or guardian if any action will be taken by the school district in response to a student's bill being in arrears

If money is owed for equivalent of five or more meals (\$17 negative balance), a district must:

- * Determine if the student is eligible for a free or reduced price meals by:
 - * 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