

New Jersey Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act

New Jersey Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights 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.

If money is owed for equivalent of five or more meals, 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**



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**

