

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 530

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

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Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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District 20 (Union)

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District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Atkins, Freiman and Assemblywoman Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain school meal information be provided to public school students' parents and requires school districts to request that families apply for school meals under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on January 12, 2023, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning school meals and ¹**【supplementing P.L.2015,**
2 **c.15 (C.18A:33-21)】** amending P.L.2022, c.104¹.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 ¹**【**1. a. At the beginning of each school year, and upon initial
8 enrollment in the case of a student enrolling during the school year,
9 a school district shall provide to the parent or guardian of each
10 student:

11 (1) a hardcopy of information on the National School Lunch
12 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program; and

13 (2) a hardcopy application to apply for the school lunch and
14 school breakfast programs and instructions for completing the
15 application.

16 The school district may also provide the information and
17 application electronically, through the usual means by which the
18 district communicates with parents electronically. The information
19 and application shall be in a language that the parent or guardian
20 understands.

21 Information provided to the parent or guardian shall include a
22 notice that an application to apply for the school lunch and school
23 breakfast programs may be submitted at any time during the school
24 year and is required to be submitted annually.

25 b. The school district shall require the parent or guardian to
26 either submit an application to apply for the school lunch and
27 school breakfast programs or submit a signed card provided by the
28 school district indicating that the parent or guardian has received
29 the application and information and is not interested in participating
30 in the school lunch and school breakfast programs. The card shall
31 include a notice stating that a parent or guardian may submit an
32 application to apply for the school lunch and school breakfast
33 programs at any time during the school year.

34 If a school district does not receive an application or a signed
35 card, the school district shall make at least one attempt to contact
36 the student's parent or guardian and request that the parent or
37 guardian submit either an application or signed card.

38 c. A school district shall provide assistance to a parent or
39 guardian in filling out an application to apply for the school lunch
40 and school breakfast programs, upon the request of the parent or
41 guardian.

42 d. If a student owes money for the equivalent of five or more
43 school meals, a school district shall make at least two attempts to
44 contact the student's parent or guardian and request that the parent

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted January 12, 2023.

1 or guardian fill out an application for the school lunch and school
2 breakfast programs.

3 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of a
4 school which participates in the Community Eligibility Provision. **】**¹

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6 ¹1. Section 16 of P.L.2022, c.104 (C.18A:33-21b1) is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 16. a. At the beginning of each school year, or upon initial
9 enrollment, in the case of a student who enrolls during the school
10 year, a school district shall provide each student's parent or
11 guardian with:

12 (1) a hard copy of information on the National School Lunch
13 Program and the federal School Breakfast Program, including, but
14 not limited to, information on the availability of free or reduced
15 price meals for eligible students, information on the application and
16 determination processes that are used to certify eligible students for
17 subsidized school meals, and information on the rights that are
18 available to students and their families under this section and
19 section 1 of P.L.2015, c.15 (C.18A:33-21); and

20 (2) a hard copy of a school meals application form, as well as
21 instructions for completing the application, and, as necessary,
22 assistance in completing the application.

23 b. The school meals information and application provided to
24 parents and guardians, pursuant to subsection a. of this section,
25 shall:

26 (1) be communicated in a language that the parent or guardian
27 understands;

28 (2) specify the limited purposes for which collected personal data
29 may be used, as provided by subsection c. of this section; **【and】**

30 (3) **【be submitted to the parent or guardian either in writing or**
31 **electronically. In the latter case, the school district shall use the**
32 **usual means by which it communicates with parents and guardians**
33 **electronically】** (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending
34 before the Legislature as this bill); and

35 (4) include a notice that an application to apply for the school
36 lunch and school breakfast programs may be submitted at any time
37 during the school year and is required to be submitted annually.

38 The school district may also provide the information and
39 application electronically, through the usual means by which the
40 district electronically communicates with parents.

41 c. A school meals application that is completed by a parent or
42 guardian shall be confidential, and shall not be used or shared by
43 the student's school or school district, except as may be necessary
44 to:

45 (1) determine whether a student identified in the application is
46 eligible for free or reduced price school meals;

1 (2) determine whether the school or school district is required,
2 by section 2 of P.L.2018, c.25 (C.18A:33-11.3) or by section 1 of
3 P.L.2018, c.28 (C.18A:33-24), to establish a breakfast after the bell
4 program, or to participate as a sponsor or site in the federal Summer
5 Meals Service Program;

6 (3) ensure that the school receives appropriate reimbursement,
7 from the State and federal governments, for meals provided to
8 eligible students, free of charge, through a school lunch program, a
9 school breakfast program, a breakfast after the bell program, a
10 summer meals program, or an emergency meals distribution
11 program; and

12 (4) facilitate school aid determinations under the "School
13 Funding Reform Act of 2008," P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-43 et
14 seq.).

15 d. The school district shall require the parent or guardian to
16 either submit an application to apply for the school lunch and
17 school breakfast programs or submit a signed card provided by the
18 school district indicating that the parent or guardian has received
19 the application and information and is not interested in participating
20 in the school lunch and school breakfast programs. The card shall
21 include a notice stating that a parent or guardian may submit an
22 application to apply for the school lunch and school breakfast
23 programs at any time during the school year.

24 If a school district does not receive an application or a signed
25 card, the school district shall make at least one attempt to contact
26 the student's parent or guardian and request that the parent or
27 guardian submit either an application or signed card.

28 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of a
29 school which participates in the Community Eligibility Provision.¹
30 (cf: P.L.2022, c.104, s.16)

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32 2. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
33 following the date of enactment.