ASSEMBLY, No. 4622 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

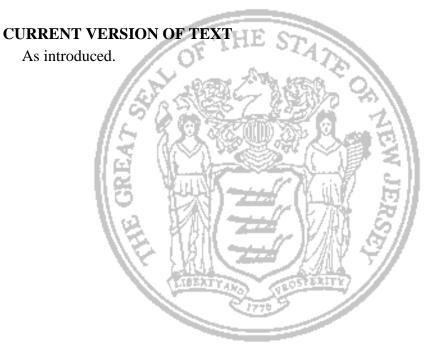
INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2018

Sponsored by: Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO District 28 (Essex) Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblywoman Chaparro, Assemblymen Wimberly, Giblin, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Danielsen and Assemblywoman Jasey

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.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/27/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning school meals and supplementing P.L.2015, c.15 2 (C.18A:33-21). 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 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 card, the school district shall make at least one attempt to contact 35 the student's parent or guardian and request that the parent or 36 37 guardian submit either an application or signed card. 38 A school district shall provide assistance to a parent or c. 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 45 or guardian fill out an application for the school lunch and school 46 breakfast programs. 47 e. The provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of a 48 school which participates in the Community Eligibility Provision.

1	2. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
2	following the date of enactment.
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5	STATEMENT
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7	Under the provisions of the bill, at the beginning of each school
8	year, and upon initial enrollment in the case of a student enrolling
9	during the school year, a school district must provide to the parent
10	or guardian of each student:
11	• a hardcopy of information on the National School Lunch
12	Program and the federal School Breakfast Program; and
13	• a hardcopy application to apply for the school lunch and
14	school breakfast programs and instructions for completing
15	the 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 application
19	and information must be in a language that the parent or guardian
20	understands. The district must provide assistance to a parent or
21	guardian in filling out an application for school meal programs, if
22	the parent or guardian requests this assistance.
23	The bill includes a provision that would require the parent or
24 25	guardian to either submit an application to apply for the school lunch and school breakfast programs or submit a signed card
25 26	provided by the school district indicating that the parent or guardian
20 27	has received the application and information and is not interested in
28	participating in the school lunch and school breakfast programs. If
29	the school district does not receive an application or a signed card,
30	the school district is required to make at least one attempt to contact
31	the student's parent or guardian and request that the parent submit
32	either an application or signed card.
33	The bill provides that when a student owes money for the
34	equivalent of five or more school meals, the school district must
35	make at least two attempts to contact the student's parent or
36	guardian and request that the parent or guardian fill out an
37	application for the school lunch and school breakfast programs.
38	The provisions of the bill will not apply to schools which
39	participate in the Community Eligibility Provision. The
40	Community Eligibility Provision is a federal reimbursement
41	alternative for eligible, high-poverty local educational agencies and
42	schools participating in both the National School Lunch Program
43	and School Breakfast Program. Under the Community Eligibility
44	Provision, schools that serve a high proportion of low-income
45	students through direct certification are permitted to offer free
46	breakfast and lunch to all students rather than collecting individual
47	applications and limiting the meals to only income-eligible
48	students.