



State of New Jersey


DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Food & Nutrition
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Secretary

To: School Business Administrators, Charter School Leads; Food Service Directors of Schools Participating in the School Nutrition Programs

From: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, Coordinator 
School Nutrition Programs

Date: February 9, 2015

Subject: Parent Notification of Payment Owed for School Breakfast and School Lunch Meals

On February 5, 2015, Governor Chris Christie signed A-1796/S-2000 into law, which prohibits school districts from denying students school breakfast or school lunch because payment is owed without prior notice to parent.

Effective immediately, the bill provides that if money is owed for a public school student's school breakfast or school lunch bill, the district must contact the student's parent or guardian to provide notice of the debt and provide a period of 10 school days to pay the amount due. If the parent or guardian does not make a full payment by the end of the 10 school days, the district is to then provide a second notice that school breakfast or school lunch, as applicable, will not be served to the student beginning one week from the date of this second notice unless payment is made in full.

A link to the bill can found at http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2014/Bills/A2000/1796_I1.HTM for further information and reference.

Local school policies surrounding alternate meals served to students with food service debt may remain in place, as long as they do not contradict the state law.

Please ensure that any parent notification documents regarding the National School Breakfast and National School Lunch Program are maintained on file, and direct any questions you may have to the School Nutrition Programs unit at 609-984-0692.

Thank you again for your commitment to feeding the children of New Jersey nutritious, safe and balanced meals.