

26 Students' Bill of Rights Act."

27 Section 2. Section 1002.24, Florida Statutes, is created
28 to read:

29 1002.24 Student access to school meals.-

30 (1) For purposes of this section the term:

31 (a) "Meal application" means an application for free or
32 reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program or
33 the School Breakfast Program.

34 (b) "School" means a public school or nonprofit private
35 school approved to participate in the National School Lunch
36 Program or the School Breakfast Program.

37 (2)(a) Each school must provide:

38 1. A free, printed meal application in every school
39 enrollment packet or, if the school chooses to use an electronic
40 meal application, an explanation of the electronic meal
41 application process and instructions for how a parent may
42 request a printed meal application at no cost.

43 2. A meal application and instructions in a language the
44 parent understands. If a parent cannot read or understand a meal
45 application, the school must offer assistance in completing the
46 application.

47 (b) If a school becomes aware that a student who has not
48 submitted a meal application is eligible for free or reduced-
49 price meals, the school shall complete and file a meal
50 application for the student pursuant Title 7, s. 245.6(d) of the

51 Code of Federal Regulations.

52 (c) Paragraphs (a) and (b) do not apply to a school that
53 provides free meals to all students for an entire school year
54 and does not collect meal applications.

55 (3) A school district's liaison for homeless children and
56 youths, required under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
57 Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 11432, shall coordinate with the Department of
58 Agriculture and Consumer Services to ensure that homeless
59 children and youths receive free and reduced-price meals. This
60 subsection does not apply to nonprofit private schools.

61 (4) Regardless of whether or not a student has money to
62 pay for a meal or owes money for earlier meals, a school shall:

63 (a) Provide a United State Department of Agriculture
64 reimbursable meal to a student who requests one, unless a parent
65 has specifically provided written permission for the school to
66 withhold a meal.

67 (b) If the student owes money for five or more meals:

68 1. Check the state list of students categorically eligible
69 for free meals to determine if the student is categorically
70 eligible.

71 2. Make at least two attempts, not including the meal
72 application or instructions included in the enrollment packet,
73 to reach the student's parent and to request the parent complete
74 a meal application.

75 3. Require the principal, an assistant principal, or a

76 counselor to contact the parent to offer assistance with the
77 meal application, determine if there are other issues within the
78 household that have caused the student to have insufficient
79 funds to purchase a school meal, and offer any other appropriate
80 assistance.

81 (c) Direct all communications regarding a student's meal
82 debt to his or her parent. However, a school may send a letter
83 home with the student that is addressed to the parent.

84 (5) A school may not:

85 (a) Require a student to throw a meal away after it has
86 been served because of the student's inability to pay for the
87 meal or because money is owed for earlier meals.

88 (b) Publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot
89 pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt, including, but not
90 limited to, requiring a student to wear a wristband or hand
91 stamp.

92 (c) Require a student who cannot pay for a meal or who
93 owes a meal debt to do chores or other work to pay for meals.
94 This does not include chores or work required of all students
95 regardless of a meal debt.

96 (d) Require a parent to pay fees or costs from a
97 collection agency hired to collect a meal debt.

98 (6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
99 administer this section.

100 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.