

REFERENCE TITLE: pupils; unpaid school meal fees

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-third Legislature
Second Regular Session
2018

SB 1036

Introduced by
Senator Quezada

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-118; RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 1, article 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-118, to read:
4 15-118. School meals; unpaid fees; fund
5 A. A LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY SHALL ENSURE THAT A PUPIL WHOSE PARENT
6 OR GUARDIAN HAS NOT PAID THE PUPIL'S SCHOOL MEAL FEES IS NOT SHAMED,
7 TREATED DIFFERENTLY OR SERVED A MEAL THAT DIFFERS FROM WHAT A PUPIL WHO
8 DOES NOT HAVE UNPAID SCHOOL MEAL FEES WOULD RECEIVE UNDER THAT LOCAL
9 EDUCATION AGENCY'S POLICY. THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A SCHOOL
10 FROM SERVING AN ALTERNATIVE MEAL TO A PUPIL WHO MAY NEED A SPECIAL MEAL
11 FOR A DIETARY OR RELIGIOUS REASON.
12 B. SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS AT A LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY THAT
13 SERVES MEALS THAT MEET THE NUTRITION STANDARDS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION
14 15-242 TO PUPILS DURING THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY MAY NOT ALLOW DISCIPLINARY
15 ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST A PUPIL THAT RESULTS IN THE DENIAL OR DELAY OF
16 A MEAL THAT MEETS THE NUTRITION STANDARDS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-242.
17 C. A SCHOOL MAY NOT REQUIRE A PUPIL WHO CANNOT PAY FOR A MEAL OR
18 WHO OWES UNPAID MEAL FEES TO DO CHORES OR OTHER WORK TO PAY FOR MEALS.
19 D. A LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY SHALL NOTIFY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF
20 THE PUPIL'S NEGATIVE SCHOOL MEAL ACCOUNT BALANCE NOT LATER THAN TEN DAYS
21 AFTER THE MEAL ACCOUNT REACHES A NEGATIVE BALANCE. BEFORE SENDING THIS
22 NOTIFICATION TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN, THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY SHALL
23 EXHAUST ALL OPTIONS AND METHODS TO DIRECTLY CERTIFY THE PUPIL FOR FREE OR
24 REDUCED-PRICE MEALS. IF THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY IS NOT ABLE TO
25 DIRECTLY CERTIFY THE PUPIL, THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE THE
26 PARENT OR GUARDIAN WITH A PAPER COPY OF OR AN ELECTRONIC LINK TO AN
27 APPLICATION WITH THE NOTIFICATION AND CONTACT THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO
28 ENCOURAGE APPLICATION SUBMISSION.
29 E. A LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY MAY ATTEMPT TO COLLECT UNPAID SCHOOL
30 MEAL FEES FROM A PARENT OR GUARDIAN BUT MAY NOT USE A DEBT COLLECTOR, AS
31 DEFINED IN THE CONSUMER CREDIT PROTECTION ACT (P.L. 90-321; 82 STAT. 146;
32 15 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 1692a), FOR THIS PURPOSE.
33 F. THIS SECTION DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THE INDEFINITE ACCRUAL OF UNPAID
34 SCHOOL MEAL FEES.
35 G. A SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR A CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING
36 BODY MAY ESTABLISH A MEAL FEE DEBT FUND CONSISTING OF DONATIONS OR GIFTS
37 TO BE USED TO PAY PUPILS' OUTSTANDING UNPAID MEAL FEES.