

HB 1152 – Public Schools – Student Meal Programs and Policies

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0HP V5w7G8

Eliminating stigma

"PGCPS intends to treat all students with dignity and respect and prevent any embarrassment in the lunch line due to lack of funds in a student's meal account while promoting parental responsibility for meal payment." (Prince George's County)

"All students will be treated with dignity and confidentiality in the serving line regarding meal accounts...No student will be denied a meal because of financial circumstances beyond a student's control. Meals will not be taken away from a student once it is served." 2 (Howard County)

Meal Charging

"Every student is served a meal, regardless of eligibility status or charges on account. Alternate meals are not to be served to students. Food and Nutrition Services' (FNS) goal is to provide students the nutrition they need, minimize the identification of students with insufficient funds, and maintain financial integrity of the enterprise fund." 3 (Washington County)

Schools should contact parents or guardians immediately of any negative balance and work to determine if the student is eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

"Parents will be notified via US Mail, telephone, secured electronic notice, or unmarked sealed envelope sent home with the student. This notification will also include information on how to apply for free or reduced meals." (Worcester County)

Communication about school meal debt should be directed at the student's parent or guardian and not involve the student.

"Food and Nutrition Services will send out low balance notices prior to students needing to charge meals. School system staff involved in the collection of delinquent debt for meals will ensure that their efforts do not have a negative impact on the student involved, and will instead focus primarily on adults in the household responsible for providing funds for meal purchases." (Howard County)





Every Child deserves to Dine with Dignity