STATE OF NEW YORK

9995

IN ASSEMBLY

March 7, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. PELLEGRINO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to school meal charge policies

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 57 to read as follows:

57. The commissioner is authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regulations requiring all elementary and secondary schools and boards of cooperative educational services to establish school meal charge policies in order to ensure a consistent and transparent approach is applied in instances of unpaid meal charges and the collection of delinquent debt. Such policies shall include, but not be limited to, information for parents or persons in parental relation and relevant school staff on available meal options for students who have insufficient funds to purchase a meal at time of service, how delinquent meal charge debt is collected, and available payment options. When developing meal charge policies, schools and boards of cooperative educational services shall ensure that such policies do not have a negative impact on children who do not have sufficient funds, and that the identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals is minimal. Such policies shall prohibit the use of alternate meals as an option when students do not have sufficient funds to pay for a meal at time of service. Such policies must be provided in writing to all students at the start of each school year, to students who transfer to the school during the school year, and, at the discretion of the school or board of cooperative educational services, throughout the school year. Such policies shall also be posted on the school's internet website, if one exists.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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