

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 3562

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the adoption of a policy allowing a grace period after
3 the exhaustion of the balance of a meal card or account used by
4 students to purchase meals in public schools.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 33, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 33.908 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 33.908. GRACE PERIOD POLICY FOR EXHAUSTED OR
9 INSUFFICIENT MEAL CARD OR ACCOUNT BALANCE. A school district that
10 allows students to use a prepaid meal card or account to purchase
11 meals served at the school shall adopt a grace period policy
12 regarding the use of the cards or accounts. The policy:

13 (1) must allow a student whose meal card or account
14 balance is exhausted or insufficient to continue, for a period
15 determined by the district, to purchase meals by:

16 (A) accumulating a negative balance on the
17 student's card or account; or

18 (B) otherwise receiving an extension of credit
19 from the district;

20 (2) must require the district to notify the parent of
21 or person standing in parental relation to the student that the
22 student's meal card or account balance is exhausted; and

23 (3) may not permit the district to charge a fee or
24 interest in connection with meals purchased under Subdivision (1).

1 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016
2 school year.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.