

Amend CSSB 1696 (senate committee printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTIONS and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION _____. Section 33.908, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33.908. GRACE PERIOD POLICY FOR EXHAUSTED OR INSUFFICIENT MEAL CARD OR ACCOUNT BALANCE. (a) In this section, "regular meal" means a meal for which a school district ordinarily receives reimbursement under the national free or reduced-price lunch program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq.

(b) A school district that allows students to use a prepaid meal card or account to purchase meals served at the school shall adopt a grace period policy regarding the use of the cards or accounts. The policy:

(1) must allow a student whose meal card or account balance is exhausted or insufficient to continue, for a grace period determined by the board of trustees of the district, to purchase regular meals by:

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

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

(2) must require the district to make at least one attempt by telephone or e-mail during each week of the grace period to privately:

(A) notify the parent of or person standing in parental relation to the student that the student's meal card or account balance is exhausted;

(B) make arrangements with the parent or other person for payment of negative balances or amounts otherwise due, including through use of a payment plan; and

(C) assist the parent or other person in completing an application on behalf of the student for free or reduced-price meals, if it is determined that the student may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals;

(3) must require the district to provide the parent or other person with a written notice of a negative balance or other

amount due that includes information on how to obtain an application for free or reduced-price meals;

(4) may not permit the district to charge a fee or interest in connection with meals purchased under Subdivision (1); and

(5) [~~4~~] may permit the district to set a schedule for repayment on the account balance or other amount due if the district is unable to set a repayment schedule by agreement through efforts required under Subdivision (2) [~~as part of the notice to the parent or person standing in parental relation to the student~~].

(c) After expiration of the grace period, the school district may:

(1) permit the student to continue to purchase regular meals in the manner described by Subsection (b)(1); or

(2) provide the student with alternate meals at no cost.

(d) A school district that elects to provide alternate meals must:

(1) privately notify the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student of the district's action; and

(2) provide those meals through the same serving line as regular meals.

(e) If a school district provides regular meals to a student under Subsection (c)(1) and is unable at the end of the school year to obtain payment for the meals from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student, the district may pay the negative balance on the student's meal card or account using private donations solicited by the district from individuals and entities for that purpose and maintained in a separate district account. The amount of any private donations received under this subsection is in addition to any reimbursement to which the district is entitled under federal law.

(f) A school district may not publicly identify a student with a negative balance on a meal card or account and must implement any action authorized under this section in a manner that protects the student's privacy. The district's policy must identify the

manner in which the district will protect the student's privacy.

SECTION _____. Section 33.908, Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.