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SENATE BILL 10

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING FREE AND REDUCED-FEE MEAL APPLICATIONS AT REGISTRATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-13C-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2017, Chapter 117, Section 3) is amended to read:

"22-13C-3. MEAL APPLICATION AVAILABILITY AND CLARITY.--

A. A school shall provide:

(1) a free, printed meal application in every school enrollment packet, or if the school chooses to use an electronic meal application, provide in school enrollment packets an explanation of the electronic meal application process and instructions for how parents or guardians may request a paper application at no cost; and

(2) meal applications and instructions in a

underscored material = new
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underscored material = new
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1 language that parents and guardians understand. If a parent or
2 guardian cannot read or understand a meal application, the
3 school shall offer assistance in completing the application.

4 B. If a school becomes aware that a student who has
5 not submitted a meal application is eligible for free or
6 reduced-fee meals, the school shall complete and file an
7 application for the student under the authority granted by
8 Title 7, Section 245.6(d) of the Code of Federal Regulations.

9 C. Subsections A [~~and~~], B and E of this section do
10 not apply to a school that provides free meals to all students
11 in a year in which the school does not collect meal
12 applications from students.

13 D. The liaison required of a school pursuant to the
14 federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act shall coordinate
15 with the nutrition department to make sure that a homeless
16 student receives free school meals and shall be appropriately
17 coded and entered in the student-teacher accountability
18 reporting system. The requirements of this subsection do not
19 apply to a private or religious school.

20 E. If a student's parent or guardian does not file
21 a meal application at the time of registration, registration
22 will be deemed incomplete."