

ASSEMBLY, No. 3034

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires each school district with middle school or high school to establish food services advisory committee to consider menu options that reflect students' cultural, traditional, and dietary preferences.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning school breakfast and lunch menus and
2 supplementing chapter 33 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. The chief school administrator or a designee of each
9 school district that includes a middle school or high school, where a
10 need is determined pursuant to subsection f. of this section, shall
11 establish a food services advisory committee to consider and
12 recommend school breakfast and lunch menu options that better
13 reflect the cultural, traditional, and dietary food preferences of the
14 student body including, but not limited to, vegetarian and vegan
15 meal options. The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity
16 and make recommendations to school principals, the chief school
17 administrator or a designee, and the food services provider.

18 b. Members of the committee shall be selected by the chief
19 school administrator or a designee and shall include a principal or a
20 designee, a food services employee of the district or contractor as
21 applicable, the chief school administrator or a designee, at least four
22 students enrolled in the school district's middle schools or high
23 schools, and one or more parents of those students. A student who
24 expresses an interest in participating on the committee shall be
25 considered for membership. In the event that a school nurse
26 expresses an interest in participating on the committee, the chief
27 school administrator or a designee shall appoint a school nurse to
28 the committee.

29 c. The committee shall convene at least three times during each
30 school year with at least one meeting in each half of the school
31 year.

32 d. In making its recommendations for new menu options that
33 better reflect the cultural, traditional, and dietary food preferences
34 of the student body, the committee shall also consider: available
35 funding for the school breakfast and school lunch program,
36 equipment, and other issues that may serve to limit food choices;
37 the ability of the food services provider and its employees to
38 comply with the recommendations; and the nutritional value of the
39 new menu options.

40 e. Any new menu options offered by the school district shall
41 meet nutritional standards in the National School Lunch and School
42 Breakfast Programs.

43 f. To determine the need for a food services advisory
44 committee in a particular school district, a district shall provide a
45 written form to each student enrolled in the district's middle schools
46 and high schools to inquire on whether the student has an unmet
47 cultural, traditional, or dietary food preference. At a minimum the
48 form shall include an area for the student's name and contact

1 information, an area for the student to describe any unmet food
2 preference requested to be addressed, a question on whether the
3 student would like vegetarian or vegan meal options offered in
4 addition to the current meal options, and an area where the student
5 may request to participate on the food services advisory committee.
6 The form shall also be made available to students and parents on the
7 school district's Internet website.

8 g. The requirements of this section may be suspended for one
9 school year at the discretion of the chief school administrator in the
10 event that:

11 (1) no student indicates an unmet food preference on the written
12 or Internet form; or

13 (2) the response of students on the written or Internet form is de
14 minimis in nature and the food preferences of those students can be
15 met to the satisfaction of the students without a food services
16 advisory committee.

17 h. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection g. of this
18 section to the contrary, if a student expresses an interest in
19 vegetarian or vegan menu items, the school district shall make all
20 reasonable efforts to expand its school breakfast and school lunch
21 menus to include hot and cold vegetarian and vegan meal options.

22 i. In the event that on the effective date of this section, a
23 school district has a method for resolving student grievances that
24 includes student representation, the school district may substitute
25 that body in the place of a food services advisory committee and
26 that body shall fulfill the requirements established pursuant to this
27 section. If at any time that body is no longer functional, the school
28 district shall comply with the requirements of this section within 60
29 days.

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31 2. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
32 following the date of enactment.

33 34 35 STATEMENT

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37 This bill directs the chief school administrator of a school district
38 that includes a middle school or high school to establish a food
39 services advisory committee to consider and recommend school
40 breakfast and lunch menu options that better reflect the cultural,
41 traditional, and dietary food preferences of the student body, including
42 vegetarian and vegan meal options. The committee will serve in an
43 advisory capacity and make recommendations to the chief school
44 administrator, the school principals, and the food services provider.

45 Under the bill, the members of the committee will be selected by
46 the chief school administrator or a designee and will include a
47 principal or a designee, a food services employee, the chief school
48 administrator or a designee, at least four students enrolled in the school

1 district's middle schools or high schools, and one or more parents of
2 those students. In the event that a school nurse expresses an interest in
3 serving on the food services advisory committee, the chief school
4 administrator or a designee will appoint a school nurse to the
5 committee.

6 In making its recommendations for new menu options, the
7 committee is directed to also consider: available funding for the school
8 breakfast and school lunch programs, equipment, and other issues that
9 may serve to limit food choices; the ability of the food services
10 provider and its employees to comply with the recommendations; and
11 the nutritional value of the new menu options. Finally, the bill
12 provides that any new menu options offered by the school district must
13 meet nutritional standards in the National School Lunch and School
14 Breakfast Programs.

15 To determine the need for a food services advisory committee in a
16 particular school district, a district must provide a written form to each
17 student enrolled in the district's middle schools and high schools to
18 inquire on whether the student has an unmet food preference. The
19 form will also be available on the school district's Internet website.
20 The bill's requirements may be suspended for one school year at the
21 discretion of the chief school administrator in the event that 1) no
22 student indicates an unmet food preference on the written or Internet
23 form, or 2) the response of students is de minimis in nature and the
24 food preferences of those students can be met to the satisfaction of the
25 students without a food services advisory committee.

26 In the event that on the bill's effective date a school district has a
27 method for resolving student grievances that includes student
28 representation, the school district may substitute that body in the place
29 of a food services advisory committee and that body will fulfill the
30 requirements established under the bill.