

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB728

Chairperson: Senator Mike Groene

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 19, 2019

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 728 requires the Nebraska Department of Education to create and disseminate a uniform meal charge policy that school districts may implement. This policy shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Each student shall be served a reimbursable meal regardless of accrued meal debt or ability to pay.
- Require school districts to communicate with a parent or guardian to address outstanding debt, rather than communicate through the student.
- A school shall not discard any school meal after it is served to a student on the basis that the student is unable to pay for the meal or has school meal debt.
- Encourage schools to certify students eligible for free or reduced price lunch and have them apply.
- Schools shall evaluate unpaid meal charge collection policies and consider whether collection is appropriate based on income and family circumstances

The Department may include additional school meal charge policies.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lynne Walz