

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

POLICY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 3032

By: Lowe

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 1, Chapter 255, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 3-119.1), which relates to electronic applications for free or reduced-price meals; eliminating reference to optional applications; prohibiting minor children from being enrolled in school unless a parent or guardian fills out an application for free or reduced-price meals; requiring school district to provide applications during enrollment; allowing parents or guardians to opt out of the free or reduced-price meals programs; requiring the State Department to ensure compliance with certain notice mandates; requiring school districts to provide parents and guardians notice of certain enrollment essentials; providing exceptions; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 255, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 3-119.1), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3-119.1. A. The State Department of Education shall
2 make available to school districts an ~~optional~~ electronic universal
3 application for free or reduced-price meals under the National
4 School Lunch Act. The application shall at a minimum:

5 1. Enable parents and legal guardians to complete and
6 electronically submit applications for free and reduced-price meals
7 to the school districts in which their students are ~~enrolled~~
8 enrolling;

9 2. Facilitate school districts in collecting and electronically
10 submitting free and reduced-price meal applications to the State
11 Department of Education; and

12 3. Allow for secure transmission of data necessary for
13 eligibility and enrollment determinations for the Supplemental
14 Nutrition Assistance Program.

15 B. ~~The provisions of this section shall not be construed to~~
16 ~~require school districts, parents, or legal guardians to use the~~
17 ~~electronic universal application provided for in subsection A of~~
18 ~~this section~~ No minor child shall be admitted to any public school
19 operating in this state unless and until an application for free or
20 reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act is completed
21 by the child's parent or legal guardian and returned to the
22 applicable school district. Applications required by this
23 subsection shall be provided by the school district to each child's
24 parent or legal guardian during enrollment or re-enrollment. In

1 lieu of an application for free or reduced-price meals, a child's
2 parent or legal guardian may complete a form prescribed by the State
3 Department of Education and provided by the school district to opt
4 out of the application requirements of this subsection and
5 participation in the free or reduced-price meals programs.

6 C. The State Department of Education shall ensure that each
7 school district in this state provides, on the school district
8 website and in any notice or publication prepared for parents
9 regarding free or reduced-price meals, the following information
10 regarding requirements for school attendance: "For school
11 enrollment each year, a parent or legal guardian shall provide one
12 of the following unless automatically qualified for free or reduced-
13 price meals under federal law:

14 1. A completed application for free or reduced-price meals; or
15 2. A completed and signed free or reduced-price meals program
16 opt-out form".

17 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section:

18 1. School districts, schools, and enrolled students attending
19 such schools that qualify for and participate in the Community
20 Eligibility Provision (CEP) as provided in the federal Healthy,
21 Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and in Part 245 of Title 7 of the Code
22 of Federal Regulations, shall be exempt from the requirements of
23 this section; and

1 2. Identified students as defined in Section 245.9 of Title 7
2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, who are not subject to
3 verification or are certified for free meals through means other
4 than an application in accordance with federal law, shall not be
5 required to fill out an application or opt-out form under this
6 section.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

8 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
9 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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