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Chairman Thiesfeldt and Members of the Assembly Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on Assembly Bill 84, "The Hunger Free School Act".

AB 84 seeks to ban practices and hopefully eliminate certain stigmas around the concept of "lunch shaming." The practices eliminated include: pulling trays, requiring manual labor, providing a meal of inferior quality, requiring the child to act as intermediary between the parents and the school, or publicly stigmatizing or shaming the child for not being able to afford a quality meal.

Lunch shaming has received national attention in recent years. Stories of children who have been lunch shamed have piled up across the nation. No state has been immune from the practice of lunch shaming. Members of the public have reacted with incredible generosity and donations to help cover the costs of student lunch debt. Look no further than Cudahy, WI to see the impact of such kindness to their community's students. This legislation encourages school districts to take in donations, gifts, or bequests to cover the cost of student lunch debt.

Each school district has their own policies on student debt. However, these policies should not include lunch shaming, and they definitely should mandate feeding a child a quality meal. My office worked with the Hunger Task Force to get a collection of school policies across Wisconsin. There is a wide array of policies, but I believe that the fundamentals of this legislation are a good place to start for Wisconsin students because it will standardize policy across Wisconsin.

States across the nation have begun to pass legislation similar to AB 84 to help children and school districts alike – these include: NM, CA, IL, WA, AR, and TX, while many other states have similar legislation pending.

I am willing to listen and work with interested parties to pass this legislation. I have drafted two simple amendments that will improve this bill. One will provide a state tax check-off to address student lunch debt funding, and another will prohibit school districts from crafting policy to withhold a diploma due to student lunch debt. As policymakers we do not know a child's household situation. There may be health, financial, drug & alcohol abuse, or other issues that their family is dealing with. Before we can begin to fill a child's mind with knowledge, they first must have a full stomach. AB 84 is a bipartisan way to begin to achieve that goal.

Thank you again for holding this hearing on AB 84 and allowing me to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1212/2

KRP:ahe

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 84

March 19, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives TAUCHEN, RAMTHUN, MYERS, OHNSTAD, VINING, C. TAYLOR, SKOWRONSKI, NOVAK, STEFFEN, SUBECK, KULP, POPE, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SARGENT, ZAMARRIPA and PRONSCHINSKE, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, COWLES, BERNIER, SMITH and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on Education.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 115.3415 of the statutes; **relating to:** imposing requirements
2 -related to school lunch and breakfast programs in certain schools.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill 1) requires certain schools to provide a school lunch or breakfast to a pupil who requests such a meal; 2) prohibits those schools from taking certain actions against a pupil who is unable to pay for those meals; and 3) requires those schools to provide information and take certain actions related to applications for free or reduced-price meals.

The bill defines "school" as a public school, private school, charter school, tribal school, the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, or the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, provided the school, program, or center receives state aid for providing school lunches and breakfasts (free or reduced-price meals).

Under the bill, the school board of a school district, governing body of a private school, operator of an independent charter school, governing body of a tribal school, director of the program, or director of the center (governing body) must provide a meal that is of a similar quality to a free or reduced-price meal (quality meal) to a pupil who requests such a meal, regardless of the pupil's ability to pay for the meal, and prohibits the governing body from providing a meal of inferior quality in place of a quality meal. If the pupil is homeless and is enrolled in a public school or independent charter school, the governing body of the school must provide the quality meal to the pupil at no cost to the pupil.

The bill prohibits the governing body of a school from doing any of the following:

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1. Publicly identifying or stigmatizing a pupil who is unable to pay for a quality meal or who has outstanding debt related to a quality meal.

2. Requiring a pupil who is unable to pay for a quality meal, as a condition of receiving the quality meal, to do chores or other work not expected of a pupil who has the ability to pay.

3. Requiring a pupil who has received a quality meal to relinquish or throw away that quality meal because the pupil is unable to pay for the quality meal or has outstanding debt related to a quality meal.

4. Communicating directly with a pupil concerning the pupil's inability to pay for a quality meal or to pay outstanding debt related to a quality meal.

5. Requiring a pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian to pay fees or costs charged by a collection agency retained by the governing body to collect outstanding debt related to a quality meal.

Finally, the bill requires the governing body of a school annually to provide certain information regarding the application process to receive free or reduced-price meals to the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled in the school, and, if the governing body determines that a pupil is eligible for free or reduced-price meals but has not submitted an application, the governing body must submit an application on the pupil's behalf.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 115.3415 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **115.3415 School lunch and breakfast programs; requirements.** (1) In
3 this section:

4 (a) "Application" means an application to receive free or reduced-price meals.

5 (b) "Free or reduced-price meal" means a school lunch made available under
6 the federal school lunch program, 42 USC 1751 to 1769j, or a breakfast made
7 available under the federal school breakfast program, 42 USC 1773.

8 (c) "Governing body" means the school board of a school district, governing body
9 of a private school, operator of a charter school under s. 118.40 (2r) or (2x), governing
10 body of a tribal school, director of the program under s. 115.52, or director of the
11 center under s. 115.525.

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1 (d) "Quality meal" means a school lunch or breakfast that satisfies the
2 requirements for the governing body of a school to receive reimbursement under s.
3 115.34 (2) or 115.341 (1).

4 (e) "School" means any of the following:

5 1. A public school, private school, charter school under s. 118.40 (2r) or (2x), or
6 tribal school that receives a payment under s. 115.34 (2) for a school lunch served to
7 a pupil at the school.

8 2. The program under s. 115.52, provided the program receives a payment
9 under s. 115.34 (2) for a school lunch served to a pupil in the program.

10 3. The center under s. 115.525, provided the center receives a payment under
11 s. 115.34 (2) for a school lunch served to a pupil at the center.

12 4. A public school, private school, or tribal school that receives a payment under
13 s. 115.341 (1) for a breakfast served at the school that meets the requirements of 7
14 CFR 220.8.

15 (2) (a) Annually by September 1, the governing body of a school shall provide
16 to the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled in the school an application and
17 instructions for completing the application or, if the governing body uses an
18 electronic application, information regarding the electronic application process and
19 instructions on how the parent or guardian may obtain a printed application at no
20 cost. To the extent practicable, the governing body shall provide the application,
21 instructions, and information in a language the parent or guardian can understand
22 or shall offer assistance to the parent or guardian in completing the application.

23 (b) If the governing body of a school determines that a pupil enrolled in the
24 school is eligible for free or reduced-price meals but no application has been

ASSEMBLY BILL 84**SECTION 1**

1 submitted on behalf of the pupil, the governing body shall complete and submit an
2 application on behalf of the pupil as allowed under 7 CFR 245.6 (d).

3 (3) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), the governing body of a school shall
4 provide a quality meal to each pupil who requests one, regardless of the pupil's ability
5 to pay for the quality meal, and may not give the pupil an inferior meal in place of
6 a quality meal. If the pupil who requests a quality meal is homeless and is enrolled
7 in a public school or charter school under s. 118.40 (2r) or (2x), the governing body
8 of the school shall provide the pupil with a quality meal at no cost to the pupil.

9 (b) The governing body of a school is not required to provide a quality meal to
10 a pupil if the pupil's parent or guardian has submitted written instruction to the
11 governing body to withhold a quality meal.

12 (4) The governing body of a school may not do any of the following:

13 (a) Publicly identify or stigmatize a pupil who is unable to pay for a quality meal
14 provided under sub. (3) or who owes money to the governing body related to those
15 quality meals. In this paragraph, requiring a pupil to wear a wristband or badge or
16 receive a hand stamp or marking is considered public identification.

17 (b) Require a pupil who is unable to pay for a quality meal, as a condition of
18 receiving a quality meal under sub. (3), to do chores or other work not expected of a
19 pupil who has the ability to pay.

20 (c) Require a pupil who has received a quality meal under sub. (3) to relinquish
21 or throw away the quality meal because the pupil owes money to the governing body
22 related to quality meals provided under sub. (3) or is unable to pay for the quality
23 meal.

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1 (d) Communicate directly with a pupil concerning the pupil's inability to pay
2 for a quality meal provided under sub. (3) or to pay other money owed to the
3 governing body related to quality meals provided under sub. (3).

4 (e) Require a pupil or a pupil's parent or guardian to pay fees or costs charged
5 by a collection agency retained by the governing body to collect money owed to the
6 governing body related to quality meals provided under sub. (3).

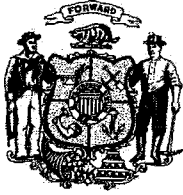
7 (5) If a pupil owes money to the governing body of a school for 5 or more quality
8 meals provided under sub. (3), the governing body shall do all of the following:

9 (a) Determine whether the pupil is categorically eligible to receive free or
10 reduced-price meals due to the pupil's participation, or the participation of a
11 member of the pupil's household, in an assistance program, or is other source
12 categorically eligible. In this paragraph:

13 1. "Assistance program" means the federal temporary assistance for needy
14 families program under 42 USC 601 to 619, the federal supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program under 7 USC 2011 to 2036c, and the food distribution program
16 on Indian reservations, under 7 USC 2013 (b) and 7 CFR 250, 253, and 254.

17 2. "Other source categorically eligible" means eligibility based on a pupil being
18 categorized as homeless, a migrant, a runaway, or a foster child or enrolled in a head
19 start program.

20 (b) Through the school's principal, assistant principal, or guidance counselor,
21 make at least 2 attempts to communicate with the pupil's parent or guardian
22 regarding the debt to discuss options for paying the debt and to provide assistance
23 to the parent or guardian in completing an application if it is determined that the
24 pupil may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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February 7, 2019

TO: Representative Gary Tauchen
Room 13 West, State Capitol

FROM: Christa Pugh, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility

At your request, I am providing information about the percentage of pupils who are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch in each school district. This information is provided sorted alphabetically by district in Attachment 1, and sorted alphabetically by county in Attachment 2. The attachments include all school districts that participate in federal Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs. Districts that show 100% of pupils qualify for a free lunch may be participating in the community eligibility provision, which allows schools and districts with a high level of poverty to provide free meals to all enrolled pupils.

I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

CP/lb
Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1

**2017-18 Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility
(Alphabetically by District)**

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Abbotsford	47.6	18.4	65.9
Adams-Friendship	76.4	4.6	81.0
Albany	26.4	12.1	38.5
Algoma	32.0	7.6	39.6
Alma	26.3	6.5	32.8
Alma Center	46.6	12.8	59.3
Almond-Bancroft	36.8	9.1	45.9
Altoona	31.0	8.5	39.5
Amery	28.1	9.5	37.6
Antigo Unified	42.0	8.0	50.0
Appleton Area	32.2	5.4	37.7
Arcadia	57.1	12.3	69.4
Argyle	23.4	6.9	30.4
Arrowhead UHS	4.8	1.7	6.5
Ashland	47.0	12.1	59.1
Ashwaubenon	24.1	7.7	31.8
Athens	30.1	5.5	35.6
Auburndale	22.2	11.3	33.4
Augusta	39.0	8.6	47.7
Baldwin-Woodville	19.0	6.2	25.2
Bangor	27.0	6.0	32.9
Baraboo	36.4	5.7	42.1
Barneveld	12.8	2.4	15.2
Barron Area	46.8	9.3	56.1
Bayfield	100.0	0.0	100.0
Beaver Dam	40.0	9.3	49.2
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembin	41.4	11.9	53.3
Belleville	19.4	2.9	22.2
Belmont Community	20.7	11.7	32.4
Beloit	100.0	0.0	100.0
Beloit Turner	35.2	5.9	41.0
Benton	21.4	7.5	28.9
Berlin Area	39.9	7.3	47.2
Big Foot	28.0	6.3	34.4
Birchwood	43.6	13.3	57.0
Black Hawk	29.2	8.6	37.8
Black River Falls	42.1	8.5	50.5
Blair-Taylor	33.8	7.1	40.9
Bloomer	25.7	9.8	35.5
Bonduel	27.0	7.4	34.4

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Boscobel Area	44.7	12.8	57.5
Bowler	44.9	8.1	53.0
Boyceville Community	36.6	11.3	47.9
Brighton #1	9.5	2.9	12.4
Brillion	18.7	7.0	25.7
Bristol # 1	14.8	2.6	17.4
Brodhead	28.3	6.0	34.3
Brown Deer	36.1	6.8	43.0
Bruce	76.3	3.2	79.6
Burlington	29.1	5.0	34.2
Butternut	39.5	9.2	48.7
Cadott Community	36.9	7.9	44.8
Cambria-Friesland	37.5	10.7	48.2
Cambridge	18.5	4.1	22.6
Cameron	32.3	9.0	41.3
Campbellsport	20.6	2.8	23.4
Cashton	30.2	7.6	37.8
Cassville	30.0	13.6	43.6
Cedar Grove-Belgium	12.1	3.0	15.1
Cedarburg	6.0	1.3	7.3
Chequamegon	43.4	9.7	53.1
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area	32.1	9.6	41.7
Chilton	27.9	6.4	34.3
Chippewa Falls	30.0	8.3	38.3
Clayton	43.3	11.5	54.7
Clear Lake	26.4	13.6	40.0
Clinton Community	27.4	7.0	34.4
Clintonville	37.0	13.0	50.0
Cochrane-Fountain City	24.4	9.2	33.6
Colby	46.6	9.3	56.0
Coleman	31.5	7.3	38.7
Colfax	36.3	7.1	43.4
Columbus	21.7	4.6	26.3
Cornell	45.2	13.0	58.1
Crandon	64.9	0.0	64.9
Crivitz	35.3	9.8	45.1
Cuba City	22.6	10.3	32.8
Cudahy	52.4	6.7	59.1
Cumberland	29.8	8.6	38.4
D.C. Everest	25.2	6.6	31.8
Darlington Community	29.2	8.1	37.3
Deerfield Community	18.1	2.1	20.2
DeForest Area	15.0	3.6	18.6
Delavan-Darien	59.6	10.7	70.3
Denmark	13.6	4.2	17.7

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
DePere	13.6	4.8	18.4
DeSoto Area	31.1	12.2	43.3
Dodgeland	35.3	8.8	44.2
Dodgeville	32.0	6.5	38.5
Drummond Area	42.8	12.4	55.2
Durand-Arkansaw	29.7	6.6	36.3
East Troy	19.9	4.8	24.7
Eau Claire Area	32.9	6.7	39.5
Edgar	20.2	9.5	29.7
Edgerton	27.3	5.7	33.1
Elcho	40.4	6.4	46.8
Eleva Strum	27.0	4.7	31.8
Elk Mound Area	22.2	4.8	27.0
Elkhorn Area	27.3	8.3	35.7
Ellsworth Community	19.2	7.7	27.0
Elmbrook	6.7	1.2	8.0
Elmwood	22.4	8.8	31.2
Erin	9.7	0.8	10.5
Evansville Community	17.8	4.6	22.4
Fall Creek	16.9	3.9	20.8
Fall River	33.5	8.3	41.7
Fennimore	27.9	16.5	44.4
Flambeau	43.1	12.1	55.3
Florence	39.8	12.0	51.8
Fond du Lac	40.1	7.0	47.1
Fontana J8	21.6	5.2	26.8
Fort Atkinson	27.4	6.2	33.7
Fox Point Joint #2	9.0	2.6	11.5
Franklin Public	12.7	1.3	14.0
Frederic	42.1	10.9	52.9
Freedom Area	14.4	5.2	19.5
Friess Lake	2.9	0.0	2.9
Galesville-Ettrick Trempealeau	19.7	5.9	25.6
Germantown	10.2	3.3	13.6
Gibraltar	24.5	6.2	30.7
Gillett	40.5	11.1	51.6
Gilman	43.1	10.2	53.3
Gilmanton	38.2	15.1	53.3
Glendale River Hills	32.6	4.0	36.6
Glenwood City	29.0	7.2	36.2
Goodman-Armstrong Creek	42.0	3.6	45.5
Grafton	13.8	3.3	17.1
Granton Area	40.3	14.2	54.5
Grantsburg	35.6	12.6	48.2
Green Bay	57.7	5.3	63.0

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Greendale	20.9	5.2	26.1
Greenfield	36.8	9.0	45.8
Greenwood	40.9	13.1	54.0
Gresham	46.5	12.8	59.2
Hamilton	9.2	1.7	10.9
Hartford Joint #1	27.1	6.6	33.7
Hartford Union High	16.9	5.8	22.7
Hartland Lakeside	14.7	3.7	18.4
Hayward Community	46.4	6.8	53.2
Herman-Neosho-Rubicon	21.8	6.4	28.3
Highland	19.4	5.5	24.9
Hilbert	25.2	7.9	33.1
Hillsboro	37.1	13.2	50.3
Holmen Area	19.0	7.1	26.1
Horicon	31.4	5.8	37.3
Hortonville	9.1	2.6	11.7
Howards Grove	9.9	3.4	13.3
Howard-Suamico	14.3	3.6	17.9
Hudson	9.2	2.1	11.4
Hurley	40.3	8.4	48.7
Hustisford	24.0	8.8	32.8
Independence	0.0	0.0	0.0
Iola-Scandinavia	29.3	9.9	39.2
Iowa-Grant	26.5	13.4	39.9
Ithaca	38.5	7.1	45.6
Janesville	53.2	4.8	58.0
Jefferson	35.7	5.5	41.2
Johnson Creek	18.4	6.6	25.0
Juda	48.0	14.1	62.1
Kaukauna Area	20.5	4.8	25.2
Kenosha Common	51.3	3.1	54.5
Kettle Moraine	7.8	2.0	9.9
Kewaskum	18.9	4.4	23.3
Kewaunee	31.1	7.3	38.4
Kickapoo Area	42.5	12.1	54.6
Kiel Area	20.0	6.1	26.1
Kimberly Area	11.9	3.1	15.0
Lac du Flambeau	100.0	0.0	100.0
LaCrosse	41.8	7.4	49.2
Ladysmith	39.8	8.4	48.1
LaFarge	49.4	6.6	56.0
Lake Country	5.7	1.8	7.4
Lake Geneva Joint #1	38.6	7.0	45.6
Lake Geneva-Genoa	29.7	6.7	36.4
Lake Holcombe	36.2	17.5	53.7

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Lake Mills	19.7	6.5	26.2
Lakeland School	37.6	12.7	50.3
Lakeland Union High	34.6	7.9	42.5
Lancaster Community	28.9	12.1	41.0
Laona	53.4	3.4	56.9
Lena Public	26.3	10.4	36.6
Linn Joint #4	36.5	6.3	42.7
Linn Joint #6	16.7	1.9	18.6
Little Chute	23.9	7.2	31.2
Lodi	14.7	5.2	19.9
Lomira	19.3	6.8	26.1
Loyal	35.5	12.1	47.6
Luck Joint	37.6	6.8	44.4
Luxemburg-Casco	14.7	4.3	19.0
Madison	50.0	4.4	54.4
Manawa	33.9	11.5	45.4
Manitowoc	36.2	6.0	42.2
Maple	24.3	7.0	31.2
Maple Dale Indian Hill	12.1	2.2	14.3
Marathon City	14.0	4.8	18.8
Marinette	40.0	9.4	49.4
Marion	43.1	12.6	55.7
Markesan	29.0	6.5	35.5
Marshall	39.6	5.5	45.1
Marshfield	23.9	4.5	28.4
Mauston	43.9	11.3	55.2
Mayville	24.0	5.6	29.6
McFarland	11.9	3.2	15.1
Medford Area	27.8	8.3	36.1
Mellen	44.7	17.2	61.9
Melrose Mindoro	34.6	6.1	40.7
Menasha	47.1	9.3	56.3
Menominee Indian	100.0	0.0	100.0
Menomonee Falls	12.5	2.8	15.3
Menomonie	30.0	8.7	38.7
Mequon-Thiensville	8.9	2.0	10.9
Mercer	41.2	10.1	51.4
Merrill Area Public	37.8	7.5	45.2
Merton Community	4.4	1.0	5.4
Middleton-Cross Plains	15.4	3.3	18.7
Milton	18.1	3.8	21.9
Milwaukee	100.0	0.0	100.0
Mineral Point	16.5	6.0	22.5
Minocqua Joint #1	32.7	5.7	38.4
Mishicot	20.5	7.2	27.7

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Mondovi	30.5	9.0	39.4
Monona Grove	16.4	2.6	19.0
Monroe	27.0	8.1	35.2
Montello	40.2	4.3	44.5
Monticello	30.4	6.8	37.2
Mosinee	21.0	5.7	26.7
Mount Horeb Area	9.3	2.9	12.2
Mukwonago	10.2	3.2	13.4
Muskego-Norway	9.9	2.2	12.2
Necedah Area	47.8	13.7	61.5
Neenah Joint	24.1	6.3	30.3
Neillsville	31.7	8.3	40.0
Nekoosa	39.4	6.3	45.8
New Auburn	37.9	10.3	48.2
New Berlin	9.3	3.0	12.3
New Glarus	24.5	6.9	31.5
New Holstein	15.0	4.0	18.9
New Lisbon	41.3	9.8	51.1
New London	28.1	8.4	36.5
New Richmond	20.5	6.1	26.6
Niagara	54.5	3.4	57.9
North Crawford	44.8	9.1	53.9
North Fond du Lac	40.3	10.3	50.5
North Lakeland	25.5	15.4	40.9
Northern Ozaukee	19.6	2.2	21.7
Northland Pines	34.2	6.3	40.4
Northwood	57.6	5.3	62.9
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	47.2	12.8	60.0
Oak Creek-Franklin	19.0	3.4	22.4
Oakfield	15.2	5.6	20.8
Oconomowoc Area	14.3	2.7	17.0
Oconto Falls	32.5	7.1	39.6
Oconto Unified	37.2	7.4	44.7
Omro	25.4	6.4	31.8
Onalaska	20.1	4.2	24.3
Oostburg	16.3	3.9	20.2
Oregon	14.1	2.7	16.9
Osceola	19.1	7.9	27.1
Oshkosh Area	36.4	7.4	43.9
Osseo-Fairchild	25.6	6.3	32.0
Owen-Withee	36.4	14.6	51.1
Palmyra Eagle	24.5	5.2	29.7
Pardeeville	27.6	7.4	35.0
Paris JI	15.2	3.2	18.4
Parkview	31.5	6.7	38.2

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Pecatonica Area	25.2	12.0	37.3
Pepin Area	22.3	4.5	26.8
Peshtigo	34.7	7.2	41.9
Pewaukee	9.5	2.1	11.6
Phelps	48.3	14.7	62.9
Phillips	32.6	9.9	42.5
Pittsville	26.5	10.7	37.3
Platteville	28.5	6.4	34.9
Plum City	35.2	12.8	47.9
Plymouth Joint	21.0	4.2	25.3
Port Edwards	32.4	6.5	38.9
Port Washington-Saukville	17.1	4.9	21.9
Portage Community	37.8	7.8	45.6
Potosi	24.1	8.0	32.1
Poynette	18.7	4.6	23.3
Prairie du Chien Area	40.1	12.2	52.3
Prairie Farm	24.9	8.3	33.2
Prentice	33.9	8.2	42.1
Prescott	13.3	5.1	18.4
Princeton	34.4	5.6	40.0
Pulaski Community	15.3	6.1	21.4
Racine Unified	65.8	3.1	68.9
Randall J1	18.5	4.4	22.9
Randolph	27.2	8.0	35.2
Random Lake	24.5	8.4	32.8
Reedsburg	37.0	9.2	46.1
Reedsville	23.8	6.3	30.1
Rhineland	36.4	7.1	43.5
Rib Lake	27.6	11.8	39.4
Rice Lake Area	34.9	7.7	42.6
Richfield Joint #1	15.0	1.3	16.3
Richland	43.2	8.3	51.5
Rio Community	30.5	8.4	38.9
Ripon	24.8	6.6	31.4
River Falls	17.7	4.5	22.2
River Ridge	35.0	9.3	44.3
River Valley	22.9	5.1	28.0
Riverdale	38.9	11.4	50.3
Rosendale-Brandon	11.2	4.5	15.7
Rosholt	12.2	6.1	18.3
Royall	42.9	10.0	52.9
Salem	28.3	5.7	34.0
Sauk Prairie	25.4	4.5	29.8
Seneca	36.3	20.5	56.8
Sevastopol	26.9	8.5	35.4

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Seymour Community	24.6	8.2	32.8
Sharon Jt #11	41.7	7.4	49.1
Shawano	38.1	10.2	48.3
Sheboygan Area	41.3	6.2	47.5
Sheboygan Falls	20.7	6.6	27.3
Shell Lake	44.2	10.2	54.3
Shiocton	22.3	6.4	28.7
Shorewood	14.4	3.2	17.6
Shullsburg	28.8	5.2	34.0
Silver Lake Jt. #1	27.9	4.3	32.2
Siren	53.0	10.8	63.7
Slinger	11.7	2.2	13.8
Solon Springs	38.4	7.7	46.1
Somerset	20.0	6.3	26.2
South Milwaukee	44.1	6.9	50.9
South Shore	33.5	9.1	42.7
Southern Door	28.9	9.1	37.9
Southwestern Wisconsin	25.1	15.7	40.9
Sparta Area	38.0	9.0	46.9
Spencer	30.3	10.4	40.8
Spooner Area	40.0	7.3	47.3
Spring Valley	18.4	7.5	26.0
St. Croix Central School	12.5	3.6	16.1
St. Croix Falls	23.4	8.4	31.8
St. Francis	41.7	6.8	48.5
Stanley-Boyd	39.5	11.2	50.7
Stevens Point	29.3	6.3	35.7
Stockbridge	19.2	2.0	21.2
Stone Bank	8.2	0.0	8.2
Stoughton Area	22.8	4.3	27.1
Stratford	14.4	4.2	18.6
Sturgeon Bay	31.0	9.9	40.9
Sun Prairie Area	22.4	4.1	26.6
Superior	39.1	9.9	49.1
Suring Public	45.2	9.8	55.0
Thorp	34.3	9.6	43.9
Three Lakes	29.8	8.9	38.6
Tigerton	47.1	10.4	57.5
Tomah Area	34.4	8.8	43.3
Tomahawk	29.3	5.8	35.1
Tomorrow River	17.3	7.1	24.4
Trevor-Wilmot	25.3	4.3	29.7
Tri-County Area	51.8	10.0	61.8
Turtle Lake	45.1	10.5	55.6
Twin Lakes #4	50.6	5.8	56.4

	<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Two Rivers	35.1	5.9	40.9
Union Grove Joint #1	18.9	3.7	22.6
Unity	39.9	11.2	51.0
Valders Area	15.8	3.1	18.9
Verona Area	25.5	5.1	30.6
Viroqua Area	30.6	10.6	41.2
Wabeno	44.1	10.0	54.2
Walworth Joint #1	43.3	13.6	56.9
Washburn	30.8	10.6	41.4
Waterford Graded Jt. #1	12.2	2.5	14.7
Waterloo	27.1	8.4	35.6
Watertown Unified	35.9	6.7	42.6
Waukesha	27.7	5.1	32.8
Waupaca	31.8	8.0	39.8
Waupun Area	29.5	7.7	37.2
Wausau	44.2	4.9	49.2
Wausaukee	43.3	11.4	54.7
Wautoma Area	47.4	10.1	57.5
Wauwatosa	20.8	3.6	24.4
Wauzeka Steuben	34.7	14.4	49.1
Webster	45.6	11.1	56.7
West Allis	59.6	3.7	63.4
West Bend	23.3	5.7	29.1
West DePere	16.4	4.4	20.8
West Salem	19.4	8.3	27.6
Westby Area	25.0	9.1	34.1
Westfield	39.3	10.1	49.4
Weston	39.5	14.6	54.0
Weyauwega-Fremont	23.0	9.4	32.3
Wheatland Jt. #1	50.4	6.4	56.8
White Lake	90.5	0.0	90.5
Whitehall	37.6	11.9	49.5
Whitewater Unified	35.9	6.5	42.4
Whitnall	19.8	2.8	22.5
Wild Rose	36.3	9.7	46.0
Williams Bay	19.2	2.9	22.1
Winneconne Community	12.8	4.0	16.9
Winter	50.4	8.4	58.8
Wisconsin Dells	45.3	8.5	53.7
Wisconsin Heights	22.2	3.9	26.1
Wisconsin Rapids	42.6	6.6	49.2
Wittenberg-Birnamwood	30.9	9.3	40.2
Wonewoc Center	35.0	15.3	50.4
Woodruff Joint #1	33.9	9.5	43.4
Wrightstown Community	16.4	3.4	19.8

ATTACHMENT 2

**2017-18 Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility
(Alphabetically by County)**

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Adams	Adams-Friendship	76.4	4.6	81.0
Ashland	Ashland	47.0	12.1	59.1
	Butternut	39.5	9.2	48.7
	Mellen	44.7	17.2	61.9
Barron	Barron Area	46.8	9.3	56.1
	Cameron	32.3	9.0	41.3
	Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area	32.1	9.6	41.7
	Cumberland	29.8	8.6	38.4
	Prairie Farm	24.9	8.3	33.2
	Rice Lake Area	34.9	7.7	42.6
	Turtle Lake	45.1	10.5	55.6
Bayfield	Bayfield	100.0	0.0	100.0
	Drummond Area	42.8	12.4	55.2
	South Shore	33.5	9.1	42.7
	Washburn	30.8	10.6	41.4
Brown	Ashwaubenon	24.1	7.7	31.8
	Denmark	13.6	4.2	17.7
	DePere	13.6	4.8	18.4
	Green Bay	57.7	5.3	63.0
	Howard-Suamico	14.3	3.6	17.9
	Pulaski Community	15.3	6.1	21.4
	West DePere	16.4	4.4	20.8
	Wrightstown Community	16.4	3.4	19.8
Buffalo	Alma	26.3	6.5	32.8
	Cochrane-Fountain City	24.4	9.2	33.6
	Gilmanton	38.2	15.1	53.3
	Mondovi	30.5	9.0	39.4
Burnett	Grantsburg	35.6	12.6	48.2
	Siren	53.0	10.8	63.7
	Webster	45.6	11.1	56.7
Calumet	Brillion	18.7	7.0	25.7
	Chilton	27.9	6.4	34.3
	Hilbert	25.2	7.9	33.1
	New Holstein	15.0	4.0	18.9
	Stockbridge	19.2	2.0	21.2

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Chippewa	Bloomer	25.7	9.8	35.5
	Cadott Community	36.9	7.9	44.8
	Chippewa Falls	30.0	8.3	38.3
	Cornell	45.2	13.0	58.1
	Lake Holcombe	36.2	17.5	53.7
	New Auburn	37.9	10.3	48.2
	Stanley-Boyd	39.5	11.2	50.7
Clark	Abbotsford	47.6	18.4	65.9
	Colby	46.6	9.3	56.0
	Granton Area	40.3	14.2	54.5
	Greenwood	40.9	13.1	54.0
	Loyal	35.5	12.1	47.6
	Neillsville	31.7	8.3	40.0
	Owen-Withee	36.4	14.6	51.1
	Thorp	34.3	9.6	43.9
Columbia	Cambria-Friesland	37.5	10.7	48.2
	Columbus	21.7	4.6	26.3
	Fall River	33.5	8.3	41.7
	Lodi	14.7	5.2	19.9
	Pardeeville	27.6	7.4	35.0
	Portage Community	37.8	7.8	45.6
	Poynette	18.7	4.6	23.3
	Rio Community	30.5	8.4	38.9
Crawford	North Crawford	44.8	9.1	53.9
	Prairie du Chien Area	40.1	12.2	52.3
	Seneca	36.3	20.5	56.8
	Wauzeka Steuben	34.7	14.4	49.1
Dane	Belleville	19.4	2.9	22.2
	Cambridge	18.5	4.1	22.6
	Deerfield Community	18.1	2.1	20.2
	DeForest Area	15.0	3.6	18.6
	Madison	50.0	4.4	54.4
	Marshall	39.6	5.5	45.1
	McFarland	11.9	3.2	15.1
	Middleton-Cross Plains	15.4	3.3	18.7
	Monona Grove	16.4	2.6	19.0
	Mount Horeb Area	9.3	2.9	12.2
	Oregon	14.1	2.7	16.9
	Stoughton Area	22.8	4.3	27.1
	Sun Prairie Area	22.4	4.1	26.6
	Verona Area	25.5	5.1	30.6
Wisconsin Heights	22.2	3.9	26.1	

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Dodge	Beaver Dam	40.0	9.3	49.2
	Dodgeland	35.3	8.8	44.2
	Herman-Neosho-Rubicon	21.8	6.4	28.3
	Horicon	31.4	5.8	37.3
	Hustisford	24.0	8.8	32.8
	Lomira	19.3	6.8	26.1
	Mayville	24.0	5.6	29.6
	Randolph	27.2	8.0	35.2
Door	Gibraltar	24.5	6.2	30.7
	Sevastopol	26.9	8.5	35.4
	Southern Door	28.9	9.1	37.9
	Sturgeon Bay	31.0	9.9	40.9
Douglas	Maple	24.3	7.0	31.2
	Solon Springs	38.4	7.7	46.1
	Superior	39.1	9.9	49.1
Dunn	Boyceville Community	36.6	11.3	47.9
	Colfax	36.3	7.1	43.4
	Elk Mound Area	22.2	4.8	27.0
	Menomonie	30.0	8.7	38.7
Eau Claire	Altoona	31.0	8.5	39.5
	Augusta	39.0	8.6	47.7
	Eau Claire Area	32.9	6.7	39.5
	Fall Creek	16.9	3.9	20.8
Florence	Florence	39.8	12.0	51.8
Fond du Lac	Campbellsport	20.6	2.8	23.4
	Fond du Lac	40.1	7.0	47.1
	North Fond du Lac	40.3	10.3	50.5
	Oakfield	15.2	5.6	20.8
	Ripon	24.8	6.6	31.4
	Rosendale-Brandon	11.2	4.5	15.7
	Waupun Area	29.5	7.7	37.2
Forest	Crandon	64.9	0.0	64.9
	Laona	53.4	3.4	56.9
	Wabeno	44.1	10.0	54.2
Grant	Boscobel Area	44.7	12.8	57.5
	Cassville	30.0	13.6	43.6
	Cuba City	22.6	10.3	32.8
	Fennimore	27.9	16.5	44.4
	Lancaster Community	28.9	12.1	41.0
	Platteville	28.5	6.4	34.9
	Potosi	24.1	8.0	32.1
	River Ridge	35.0	9.3	44.3
	Riverdale	38.9	11.4	50.3
	Southwestern Wisconsin	25.1	15.7	40.9

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Green	Albany	26.4	12.1	38.5
	Brodhead	28.3	6.0	34.3
	Juda	48.0	14.1	62.1
	Monroe	27.0	8.1	35.2
	Monticello	30.4	6.8	37.2
	New Glarus	24.5	6.9	31.5
Green Lake	Berlin Area	39.9	7.3	47.2
	Markesan	29.0	6.5	35.5
	Princeton	34.4	5.6	40.0
Iowa	Barneveld	12.8	2.4	15.2
	Dodgeville	32.0	6.5	38.5
	Highland	19.4	5.5	24.9
	Independence	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Iowa-Grant	26.5	13.4	39.9
	Mineral Point	16.5	6.0	22.5
Iron	Hurley	40.3	8.4	48.7
	Mercer	41.2	10.1	51.4
Jackson	Alma Center	46.6	12.8	59.3
	Black River Falls	42.1	8.5	50.5
	Melrose Mindoro	34.6	6.1	40.7
Jefferson	Fort Atkinson	27.4	6.2	33.7
	Jefferson	35.7	5.5	41.2
	Johnson Creek	18.4	6.6	25.0
	Lake Mills	19.7	6.5	26.2
	Palmyra Eagle	24.5	5.2	29.7
	Waterloo	27.1	8.4	35.6
Juneau	Watertown Unified	35.9	6.7	42.6
	Mauston	43.9	11.3	55.2
	Necedah Area	47.8	13.7	61.5
	New Lisbon	41.3	9.8	51.1
	Royall	42.9	10.0	52.9
Kenosha	Wonewoc Center	35.0	15.3	50.4
	Brighton #1	9.5	2.9	12.4
	Bristol # 1	14.8	2.6	17.4
	Kenosha Common	51.3	3.1	54.5
	Paris J1	15.2	3.2	18.4
	Randall J1	18.5	4.4	22.9
	Salem	28.3	5.7	34.0
	Silver Lake Jt. #1	27.9	4.3	32.2
	Trevor-Wilmot	25.3	4.3	29.7
	Twin Lakes #4	50.6	5.8	56.4
Wheatland Jt. #1	50.4	6.4	56.8	

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Kewaunee	Algoma	32.0	7.6	39.6
	Kewaunee	31.1	7.3	38.4
	Luxemburg-Casco	14.7	4.3	19.0
La Crosse	Bangor	27.0	6.0	32.9
	Holmen Area	19.0	7.1	26.1
	LaCrosse	41.8	7.4	49.2
	Onalaska	20.1	4.2	24.3
	West Salem	19.4	8.3	27.6
Lafayette	Argyle	23.4	6.9	30.4
	Belmont Community	20.7	11.7	32.4
	Benton	21.4	7.5	28.9
	Black Hawk	29.2	8.6	37.8
	Darlington Community	29.2	8.1	37.3
	Pecatonica Area	25.2	12.0	37.3
	Shullsburg	28.8	5.2	34.0
Langlade	Antigo Unified	42.0	8.0	50.0
	Elcho	40.4	6.4	46.8
	White Lake	90.5	0.0	90.5
Lincoln	Merrill Area Public	37.8	7.5	45.2
	Tomahawk	29.3	5.8	35.1
Manitowoc	Kiel Area	20.0	6.1	26.1
	Manitowoc	36.2	6.0	42.2
	Mishicot	20.5	7.2	27.7
	Reedsville	23.8	6.3	30.1
	Two Rivers	35.1	5.9	40.9
	Valders Area	15.8	3.1	18.9
Marathon	Athens	30.1	5.5	35.6
	D.C. Everest	25.2	6.6	31.8
	Edgar	20.2	9.5	29.7
	Marathon City	14.0	4.8	18.8
	Mosinee	21.0	5.7	26.7
	Spencer	30.3	10.4	40.8
	Stratford	14.4	4.2	18.6
	Wausau	44.2	4.9	49.2
Marinette	Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine	41.4	11.9	53.3
	Coleman	31.5	7.3	38.7
	Crivitz	35.3	9.8	45.1
	Goodman-Armstrong Creek	42.0	3.6	45.5
	Marinette	40.0	9.4	49.4
	Niagara	54.5	3.4	57.9
	Peshtigo	34.7	7.2	41.9
	Wausaukee	43.3	11.4	54.7

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Marquette	Montello	40.2	4.3	44.5
	Westfield	39.3	10.1	49.4
Menominee	Menominee Indian	100.0	0.0	100.0
Milwaukee	Brown Deer	36.1	6.8	43.0
	Cudahy	52.4	6.7	59.1
	Fox Point Joint #2	9.0	2.6	11.5
	Franklin Public	12.7	1.3	14.0
	Glendale River Hills	32.6	4.0	36.6
	Greendale	20.9	5.2	26.1
	Greenfield	36.8	9.0	45.8
	Maple Dale Indian Hill	12.1	2.2	14.3
	Milwaukee	100.0	0.0	100.0
	Oak Creek-Franklin	19.0	3.4	22.4
	Shorewood	14.4	3.2	17.6
	South Milwaukee	44.1	6.9	50.9
	St. Francis	41.7	6.8	48.5
	Wauwatosa	20.8	3.6	24.4
West Allis	59.6	3.7	63.4	
Whitnall	19.8	2.8	22.5	
Monroe	Cashton	30.2	7.6	37.8
	Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	47.2	12.8	60.0
	Sparta Area	38.0	9.0	46.9
	Tomah Area	34.4	8.8	43.3
Oconto	Gillett	40.5	11.1	51.6
	Lena Public	26.3	10.4	36.6
	Oconto Falls	32.5	7.1	39.6
	Oconto Unified	37.2	7.4	44.7
	Suring Public	45.2	9.8	55.0
Oneida	Lakeland Union High	34.6	7.9	42.5
	Minocqua Joint #1	32.7	5.7	38.4
	Rhineland	36.4	7.1	43.5
	Three Lakes	29.8	8.9	38.6
Outagamie	Appleton Area	32.2	5.4	37.7
	Freedom Area	14.4	5.2	19.5
	Hortonville	9.1	2.6	11.7
	Kaukauna Area	20.5	4.8	25.2
	Kimberly Area	11.9	3.1	15.0
	Little Chute	23.9	7.2	31.2
	Seymour Community	24.6	8.2	32.8
	Shiocton	22.3	6.4	28.7
Ozaukee	Cedarburg	6.0	1.3	7.3
	Grafton	13.8	3.3	17.1
	Mequon-Thiensville	8.9	2.0	10.9
	Northern Ozaukee	19.6	2.2	21.7

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Pepin	Durand-Arkansaw	29.7	6.6	36.3
	Pepin Area	22.3	4.5	26.8
Pierce	Ellsworth Community	19.2	7.7	27.0
	Elmwood	22.4	8.8	31.2
	Plum City	35.2	12.8	47.9
	Prescott	13.3	5.1	18.4
	River Falls	17.7	4.5	22.2
	Spring Valley	18.4	7.5	26.0
Polk	Amery	28.1	9.5	37.6
	Clayton	43.3	11.5	54.7
	Clear Lake	26.4	13.6	40.0
	Frederic	42.1	10.9	52.9
	Luck Joint	37.6	6.8	44.4
	Osceola	19.1	7.9	27.1
	St. Croix Falls	23.4	8.4	31.8
	Unity	39.9	11.2	51.0
Portage	Almond-Bancroft	36.8	9.1	45.9
	Rosholt	12.2	6.1	18.3
	Stevens Point	29.3	6.3	35.7
	Tomorrow River	17.3	7.1	24.4
Price	Chequamegon	43.4	9.7	53.1
	Phillips	32.6	9.9	42.5
	Prentice	33.9	8.2	42.1
Racine	Burlington	29.1	5.0	34.2
	Racine Unified	65.8	3.1	68.9
	Union Grove Joint #1	18.9	3.7	22.6
	Waterford Graded Jt. #1	12.2	2.5	14.7
Richland	Ithaca	38.5	7.1	45.6
	Richland	43.2	8.3	51.5
Rock	Beloit	100.0	0.0	100.0
	Beloit Turner	35.2	5.9	41.0
	Clinton Community	27.4	7.0	34.4
	Edgerton	27.3	5.7	33.1
	Evansville Community	17.8	4.6	22.4
	Janesville	53.2	4.8	58.0
	Milton	18.1	3.8	21.9
	Parkview	31.5	6.7	38.2
Rusk	Bruce	76.3	3.2	79.6
	Flambeau	43.1	12.1	55.3
	Ladysmith	39.8	8.4	48.1
	Port Washington-Saukville	17.1	4.9	21.9

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Saint Croix	Baldwin-Woodville	19.0	6.2	25.2
	Glenwood City	29.0	7.2	36.2
	Hudson	9.2	2.1	11.4
	New Richmond	20.5	6.1	26.6
	Somerset	20.0	6.3	26.2
	St. Croix Central School	12.5	3.6	16.1
Sauk	Baraboo	36.4	5.7	42.1
	Reedsburg	37.0	9.2	46.1
	River Valley	22.9	5.1	28.0
	Sauk Prairie	25.4	4.5	29.8
	Weston	39.5	14.6	54.0
	Wisconsin Dells	45.3	8.5	53.7
Sawyer	Hayward Community	46.4	6.8	53.2
	Winter	50.4	8.4	58.8
Shawano	Bonduel	27.0	7.4	34.4
	Bowler	44.9	8.1	53.0
	Gresham	46.5	12.8	59.2
	Shawano	38.1	10.2	48.3
	Tigerton	47.1	10.4	57.5
	Wittenberg-Birnamwood	30.9	9.3	40.2
Sheboygan	Cedar Grove-Belgium	12.1	3.0	15.1
	Howards Grove	9.9	3.4	13.3
	Oostburg	16.3	3.9	20.2
	Plymouth Joint	21.0	4.2	25.3
	Random Lake	24.5	8.4	32.8
	Sheboygan Area	41.3	6.2	47.5
	Sheboygan Falls	20.7	6.6	27.3
Taylor	Gilman	43.1	10.2	53.3
	Medford Area	27.8	8.3	36.1
	Rib Lake	27.6	11.8	39.4
Trempealeau	Arcadia	57.1	12.3	69.4
	Blair-Taylor	33.8	7.1	40.9
	Eleva Strum	27.0	4.7	31.8
	Galesville-Ettrick Trempealeau	19.7	5.9	25.6
	Osseo-Fairchild	25.6	6.3	32.0
	Whitehall	37.6	11.9	49.5
Vernon	DeSoto Area	31.1	12.2	43.3
	Hillsboro	37.1	13.2	50.3
	Kickapoo Area	42.5	12.1	54.6
	LaFarge	49.4	6.6	56.0
	Viroqua Area	30.6	10.6	41.2
	Westby Area	25.0	9.1	34.1

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Vilas	Lac du Flambeau	100.0	0.0	100.0
	North Lakeland	25.5	15.4	40.9
	Northland Pines	34.2	6.3	40.4
	Phelps	48.3	14.7	62.9
	Woodruff Joint #1	33.9	9.5	43.4
Walworth	Big Foot	28.0	6.3	34.4
	Delavan-Darien	59.6	10.7	70.3
	East Troy	19.9	4.8	24.7
	Elkhorn Area	27.3	8.3	35.7
	Fontana J8	21.6	5.2	26.8
	Lake Geneva Joint #1	38.6	7.0	45.6
	Lake Geneva-Genoa	29.7	6.7	36.4
	Lakeland School	37.6	12.7	50.3
	Linn Joint #4	36.5	6.3	42.7
	Linn Joint #6	16.7	1.9	18.6
	Sharon Jt #11	41.7	7.4	49.1
	Walworth Joint #1	43.3	13.6	56.9
	Whitewater Unified	35.9	6.5	42.4
Williams Bay	19.2	2.9	22.1	
Washburn	Birchwood	43.6	13.3	57.0
	Northwood	57.6	5.3	62.9
	Shell Lake	44.2	10.2	54.3
	Spooner Area	40.0	7.3	47.3
Washington	Erin	9.7	0.8	10.5
	Friess Lake	2.9	0.0	2.9
	Germantown	10.2	3.3	13.6
	Hartford Joint #1	27.1	6.6	33.7
	Hartford Union High	16.9	5.8	22.7
	Kewaskum	18.9	4.4	23.3
	Richfield Joint #1	15.0	1.3	16.3
	Slinger	11.7	2.2	13.8
West Bend	23.3	5.7	29.1	
Waukesha	Arrowhead UHS	4.8	1.7	6.5
	Elmbrook	6.7	1.2	8.0
	Hamilton	9.2	1.7	10.9
	Hartland Lakeside	14.7	3.7	18.4
	Kettle Moraine	7.8	2.0	9.9
	Lake Country	5.7	1.8	7.4
	Menomonee Falls	12.5	2.8	15.3
	Merton Community	4.4	1.0	5.4
	Mukwonago	10.2	3.2	13.4
	Muskego-Norway	9.9	2.2	12.2
	New Berlin	9.3	3.0	12.3
	Oconomowoc Area	14.3	2.7	17.0
	Pewaukee	9.5	2.1	11.6
	Stone Bank	8.2	0.0	8.2
	Waukesha	27.7	5.1	32.8

		<u>% Free</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced</u>
Waupaca	Clintonville	37.0	13.0	50.0
	Iola-Scandinavia	29.3	9.9	39.2
	Manawa	33.9	11.5	45.4
	Marion	43.1	12.6	55.7
	New London	28.1	8.4	36.5
	Waupaca	31.8	8.0	39.8
	Weyauwega-Fremont	23.0	9.4	32.3
Waushara	Tri-County Area	51.8	10.0	61.8
	Wautoma Area	47.4	10.1	57.5
	Wild Rose	36.3	9.7	46.0
Winnebago	Menasha	47.1	9.3	56.3
	Neenah Joint	24.1	6.3	30.3
	Omro	25.4	6.4	31.8
	Oshkosh Area	36.4	7.4	43.9
	Winneconne Community	12.8	4.0	16.9
Wood	Auburndale	22.2	11.3	33.4
	Marshfield	23.9	4.5	28.4
	Nekoosa	39.4	6.3	45.8
	Pittsville	26.5	10.7	37.3
	Port Edwards	32.4	6.5	38.9
	Wisconsin Rapids	42.6	6.6	49.2

Sussex school staff accused of taking away students' lunches when account balances get low

Alec Johnson, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Published 1:13 p.m. CT April 18, 2019 | Updated 11:04 a.m. CT April 19, 2019

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Some students at Templeton Middle School have had their lunches taken away when they don't have sufficient funds in their lunch accounts. *(Photo: Courtesy of D.C. Everest Area School District)*

Some children attending a Sussex middle school have not been able to enjoy their lunch break after actions by adult staff, who are accused of taking away the students' school lunches upon discovering there weren't sufficient funds in their lunch accounts.

One parent of a Templeton Middle School student said her son was in tears after his lunch was taken away. He also was not allowed to go to the school office to call his parents, she said.

Hamilton School District spokeswoman Denise Lindberg said these incidents are not common and the district has a policy in place to handle low lunch account balances.

The student's parent, who requested anonymity to protect her son from further embarrassment, said the problem came about when a deposit to her son's lunch account was held up.

When she needed to refill her son's lunch account, she normally would deposit the money in the morning, with no problems. But one day in mid-March the bank put a hold on the funds, thinking the deposit looked like a suspicious charge. The mom hadn't followed up on the deposit since she hadn't had any trouble in the past, she said.

Her son told her a lunch staff member told him to ask a friend to buy him food. However, his friends either couldn't remember their lunch account balance or didn't have enough money in their accounts.

"He pretty much just sat down at a table and was crying because he was hungry, scared and confused," the parent said.

Her son's friends ultimately pulled together to give him food, she said.

Speaking with the principal

According to the student's mother, Templeton Principal Brad Hoffmann said lunch staff never notified any teachers or lunchroom staff about the problem — staff members who could have helped find a solution to the problem. Hoffmann did not return a call seeking to confirm that information.

The parent said the staff is supposed to send the student to a school official to help them find a solution. That could involve calling a parent, getting food from their backpack or using cash, for example.

The parent said those options were never communicated to her son, which upsets her.

"I take 100% responsibility for the fact that I should have loaded money earlier to make sure that this didn't happen," she said. "My problem was that it didn't get addressed appropriately."

She said that other parents have reported similar problems.

Other incidents

Two years ago, Katie Gritzmacher said her son also had his lunch taken away when he was a student at Templeton and was also told to ask his friends for food. Like the other parent, the funds she put into her son's account that morning did not post on time.

After discussing the incident with school officials, Gritzmacher was told the policy would change and that middle school students would be given an emergency lunch in those situations.

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Devlynn Ihlenfeld said her 11-year-old daughter, also a student at Templeton, had her lunch taken away last fall. She said her daughter told her she wasn't allowed to go to the office and was told to go to the bathroom or sit down in the lunchroom.

Like the anonymous parent and Gritzmacher, Ihlenfeld had tried to add funds to the lunch account, but they apparently didn't post until after the incident.

When Ihlenfeld discussed the incident with the school, she learned that the policy calls for allowing students to make a phone call if they are caught in that situation. "When I asked them why that wasn't given as an option to my daughter, they didn't have an explanation," Ihlenfeld said.

Ihlenfeld said her daughter told her it was a regular occurrence for lunches to be taken from students, although she added that it has not happened recently.



The Hamilton School District has a policy in place when money gets low in students' accounts. Parents are saying the policy isn't being followed properly in every situation. (Photo: Dave Darnell / The Commercial Appeal)

Hamilton School District policy

When student accounts are low, students can pay with cash, call their parents to refill the account, take items they can't pay for off their tray, get food from their locker or ask a friend for help, according to Lindberg.

Students can also go to the school office, where staff will help them, Lindberg said. She declined to say why that didn't happen in these cases, saying student privacy laws prohibit her from commenting on specific incidents.

Families are contacted each day when a student's lunch balance falls below the equivalent cost of five meals, Lindberg said.

Emergency funds from parent groups are provided at Hamilton's elementary schools to cover the cost of two regular meals for students with insufficient funds. An alternate lunch of a cheese sandwich, milk and fruit is provided beyond two days, Lindberg said.

Elementary school students do not go without lunch even if they have no money in their

accounts. Parents of those students are asked to repay the cost of the alternate meals and the emergency funds.

The middle and high schools do not have such emergency funds, but depleted lunch accounts are rare, Lindberg said. She estimated that about 12 times a year, middle or high school students will be told they do not have enough funds in their account to buy a hot lunch.

Lindberg stressed that no student is denied a lunch because of family income. Quarterly, Hamilton electronically matches student files to a state database of children in families enrolled in assistance programs or the foster care system to ensure those students are receiving free lunches. Families who do not participate in state programs can apply for and receive free or reduced lunch pricing if their income falls below federal guidelines. Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the school year.

Addressing complaints

According to Lindberg, the district received only one complaint this school year, in mid-March. Before that, the last complaint was two years ago, she said.

Since the complaint two years ago, families are now notified when their account is below the average cost of five meals instead of three meals. This school year, a new feature became available that allows parents to set up automatic deposits when their balance reaches a certain level.

Lindberg also said that lunch line staff members now encourage students to go to the school office to problem-solve when accounts are low rather than working it out in the lunch line. In the office, students usually make a quick call to their parents to add money to their account, she said.

With a large number of families using the auto-refill option or taking care of their lunch account when they get multiple low-lunch-balance calls, Lindberg said it is uncommon for students to get caught short of lunch funds.

"Most often, a student may want to get several servings of a food item, and lunch staff let them know how many servings they can get based on what is in their account," Lindberg said.



Many school districts in the Milwaukee area have policies in place for low and overdrawn lunch accounts. (Photo: Special to the Register)

Other area lunch policies

Other suburban school districts also have policies about low and overdrawn accounts. They have notification systems involving phone calls, emails or text alerts to remind families of low lunch balances. They also encourage families who are eligible to apply for the free or reduced lunch program.

Some districts, like Hamilton and the Oconomowoc Area School District, have funds that help to pay for students with depleted accounts.

In the Mequon-Thiensville School District, students who are unable to pay for a meal will be provided a regular meal, excluding a la carte items, and a grace period to satisfy the debt before a USDA-guideline approved alternative meal is substituted, according to district director of communications Jennifer Flierl.

At the elementary school level, the grace period is up to five meals of unpaid meal charges and up to three meals of unpaid meal charges at the middle school level, Flierl said. Unpaid meal charges are not allowed at the high school level.

Flierl also said the district's business manager will contact a family right away if there is an unpaid meal charge.

"Since the business manager has been calling families, we have not found it necessary to start the process of implementing alternative meals," she said.

Alternative meals are an option in the Pewaukee School District for those whose accounts are low, according to Superintendent Mike Cady. A la carte items are not allowed.

Glendale-River Hills School District Superintendent Larry Smalley said his district works with its food service provider, Taher Inc., to send reminders, sometimes multiple reminders, to parents who do not have enough money to cover lunches.

If at the end of the year families still have a negative balance, the amount owed is added to the following years' fees.

"In the end our policy/belief is that the money aspect of fees is a parent responsibility and we will not punish kids for a parent not following through on a payment," Smalley said.

Menomonee Falls School District Superintendent Corey Golla said delinquent lunch accounts in the district are sometimes covered by anonymous donors.

Arrowhead Union High School District Superintendent Laura Myrah said students and parents are informed nightly via email if a student's lunch account is in the negative. She said the school lets students' accounts go to \$5 into the negative and still provides up to two days of lunches with the account at a negative balance.

Contact Alec Johnson at (262) 875-9469 or alec.johnson@jm.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@AlecJohnson12](https://twitter.com/AlecJohnson12).

Parents clash with school administration on Stanley-Boyd school lunch incidents

- [SARAH SEIFERT Chippewa Herald](#)

- May 20, 2018

Several parents of Stanley-Boyd School District students have come forward with allegations that school administration dumped lunches of students whose meal accounts had a negative balance.

A Stanley-Boyd school official, however, has denied the accusations.

One parent, Denise Hoffstatter of Stanley, said an eyewitness related an April incident to her, where a male high school student filled his lunch tray, attempted to pay for his meal and realized he had a negative balance.

A school administrator took the tray from the student and dumped the food into the garbage, Hoffstatter said in a phone interview with the Herald.

Another Stanley-Boyd high school parent, who spoke to the Herald in a phone interview and requested anonymity, said two of her high school children have had their lunches dumped. Both qualify for the district's free lunch option, she said.

"My kids were very upset that it happened to them," the parent said. "They were embarrassed ... (the school) shouldn't be dumping anybody's lunch."

Carrie Seichter of Boyd said one of her children was accosted about a negative account balance while in the lunch line.

"They haven't had their trays physically taken away from them, but have gotten threatened in the line in front of their peers," Seichter said in a phone interview with the Herald.

Seichter's children have seen other students' trays get taken away, and students have not been allowed to pay for other students' lunches, she said.

Seichter and Hoffstatter expressed concern with the layout of the lunch area, where students would first pick up their food, then pay for the meal.

The school district issued an apology Thursday on its Facebook page, saying it has changed its payment system. Lunch payment will now be required at the beginning of the lunch line, and "an alternative lunch option is being offered.

"We wish to apologize to all of you regarding how our lunch program has been handled over the past couple of months," the apology read.

Stanley-Boyd School District superintendent Jim Jones said the district is not throwing students' meals away — "We are just not doing that," he said in a phone interview with the Herald — but mentioned two incidents in March

when students entered the lunch line after being told not to, due to negative account balances.

Jones said the students in the March incidents were “probably” stopped in the lunch line, instead of having their meals taken away.

Video footage shows no student lunches were dumped on a specific day, May 15, Jones said, but he does not have access to previous footage, as the district does not store or archive past video footage.

“If you’re talking about this week, I would say it’s impossible,” Jones said. “We had two incidents about two months ago... I think that’s what started this.”

Jones said the administration is not taking more aggressive steps to rectify negative lunch accounts, but said policy requires students to have positive balances.

The Stanley-Boyd school district has an alternative lunch option that is free to any student with a negative balance, Jones said, including a sandwich, a piece of fruit and milk.

Both Hoffstatter and Seichter plan to attend the district’s next school board meeting. Hoffstatter expects at least 10 parents or students to speak, and dozens to attend, she said.

“There’s got to be alternative means,” she said.

Stanley-Boyd school board members Jackie Holub, Robert Geist, Jeff Boie, Lansing Carlson, Ryan Lewallen and Chad Verbeten did not return voicemails left seeking comment. School board president Mike Henke could not be reached for comment.

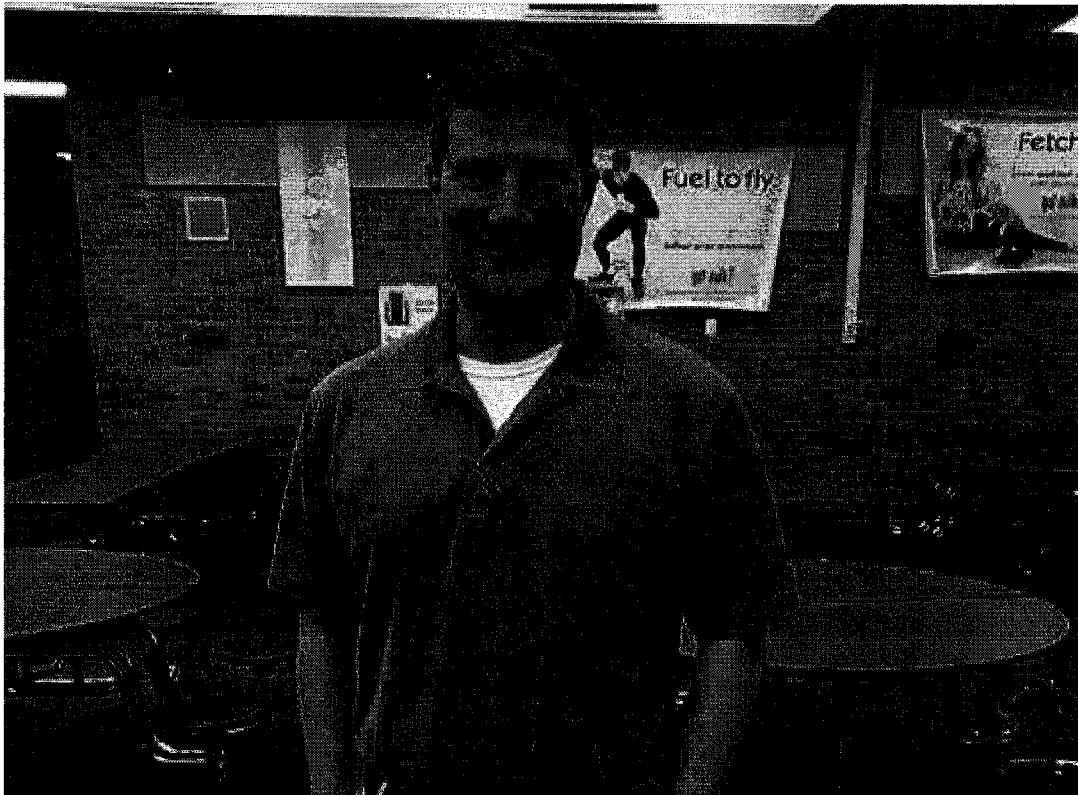
journal sentinel

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

A Cudahy man paid off outstanding student lunch debt at a local middle school. Then others did the same.

Bob Dohr, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | Published 4:00 p.m. CT May 23, 2019 | Updated 11:53 a.m. CT May 24, 2019

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Shawn Bumgardner paid off all the negative lunch balances for Cudahy Middle School students, about 30 in total. “When I learned there were children that could possibly go hungry at school, I decided it was time to act,” Bumgardner said. *(Photo: Submitted)*

An act of generosity by a Cudahy man has eased the burden on a bunch of area families and made sure their kids wouldn't go hungry during the school day — and it's spurred similar acts of kindness.

Shawn Bumgardner, whose daughter attends Cudahy Middle School, went to the school May 22 and paid off all the student lunch accounts that had negative balances.

"When I learned there were children that could possibly go hungry at school, I decided it was time to act," Bumgardner said. "No child should be without food during the school day."

Bumgardner, a New Jersey native who works in management for a chemical life science organization, said his donation covered about 30 accounts. He declined to share the dollar amount.

"I contacted the school to see if they would accept a payment to ensure kids could eat throughout the rest of the year, or at a minimum make it easier for parents to afford school lunches," he said. "I hope others will make a donation to their child's school."

They have.

After Bumgardner's donation, an anonymous donor paid all the outstanding lunch balances at Cudahy High School, according to a Facebook post by Bumgardner. Then another picked up the tab for Cudahy Elementary School.

"One random act of kindness can go a long way within our city," Bumgardner said. "This response is truly amazing."

Among the suburban Milwaukee school districts, Cudahy has one of the highest percentages of students, 59%, who are enrolled in the government-sponsored free-and reduced-price school lunch program.

District Superintendent Jim Heiden and Cudahy Middle School Principal Kim Berner were not immediately available for interviews.

Contact Bob Dohr at 262-361-9140 or bob.dohr@jrn.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@BobDohr1](https://twitter.com/BobDohr1).



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRBa0085/1
KRP:kjf

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ,
TO ASSEMBLY BILL 84

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 1. Page 5, line 6: after that line insert:

3 "(f) Restrict a pupil's participation in extracurricular activities on the basis that
4 the pupil is unable to pay for a quality meal provided under sub. (3) or owes money
5 to the governing body related to a quality meal provided under sub. (3).

6 (g) Restrict a pupil's participation in graduation activities on the basis that the
7 pupil is unable to pay for a quality meal provided under sub. (3) or owes money to the
8 governing body related to a quality meal provided under sub. (3).

9 (h) Withhold a pupil's high school diploma or refuse to promote a pupil to the
10 next grade on the basis that the pupil is unable to pay for a quality meal provided
11 under sub. (3) or owes money to the governing body related to a quality meal provided
12 under sub. (3).".

13

(END)



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRBa0261/P1
EKL:kjf

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION
ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ,
TO ASSEMBLY BILL 84

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 **1.** Page 2, line 1: before that line insert:

3 “**SECTION 1g.** 20.566 (1) (hp) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 20.566 (1) (hp) *Administration of income tax checkoff voluntary payments.* The
5 amounts in the schedule for the payment of all administrative costs, including data
6 processing costs, incurred in administering ss. 71.10 (5), (5e), (5f), (5fm), (5g), (5h),
7 (5i), (5j), (5jm), (5k), (5km), and (5m), and 71.30 (10). All moneys specified for deposit
8 in this appropriation under ss. 71.10 (5) (h) 5., (5e) (h) 4., (5f) (i), (5fm) (i), (5g) (i), (5h)
9 (i), (5i) (i), (5j) (i), (5jm) (i), (5k) (i), (5km) (i), and (5m) (i) and 71.30 (10) (i) and (11)
10 (i) shall be credited to this appropriation account.

11 **SECTION 1m.** 71.10 (5jm) of the statutes is created to read:

12 71.10 (5jm) SCHOOL LUNCH DEBT DONATIONS. (a) *Definitions.* In this subsection:

- 1 1. “Department” means the department of revenue.
- 2 2. “Eligible governing body” means a governing body, as defined in s. 115.3415
- 3 (1) (c), whose application under par. (e) 1. has been approved by the department.
- 4 3. “School lunch debt” means money owed by a pupil to a governing body due
- 5 to the pupil receiving a quality meal, as defined in s. 115.3415 (1) (d).
- 6 (b) *Voluntary payments.* 1. ‘Designation on return.’ Subject to sub. (5s), every
- 7 individual filing an income tax return who has a tax liability or is entitled to a tax
- 8 refund may designate on the return any amount of additional payment or any
- 9 amount of a refund due that individual as a donation to an eligible governing body
- 10 for the repayment of school lunch debt.
- 11 2. ‘Designation added to tax owed.’ If the individual owes any tax, the
- 12 individual shall remit in full the tax due and the amount designated under subd. 1.
- 13 when the individual files a tax return.
- 14 3. ‘Designation deducted from refund.’ Except as provided in par. (d), if the
- 15 individual is owed a refund for that year after crediting under ss. 71.75 (9) and 71.80
- 16 (3) and (3m), the department shall deduct the amount designated under subd. 1. from
- 17 the amount of the refund.
- 18 (c) *Errors; failure to remit correct amount.* If an individual who owes taxes fails
- 19 to remit an amount equal to or in excess of the total of the actual tax due, after error
- 20 corrections, and the amount designated under par. (b) 1.:
- 21 1. The department shall reduce the designation under par. (b) 1. to reflect the
- 22 amount remitted in excess of the actual tax due, after error corrections, if the
- 23 individual remitted an amount in excess of the actual tax due, after error corrections,
- 24 but less than the total of the actual tax due, after error corrections, and the amount
- 25 originally designated on the return under par. (b) 1.

1 2. The designation under par. (b) 1. is void if the individual remitted an amount
2 equal to or less than the actual tax due, after error corrections.

3 (d) *Errors; insufficient refund.* If an individual is owed a refund that does not
4 equal or exceed the amount designated under par. (b) 1., after crediting under ss.
5 71.75 (9) and 71.80 (3) and (3m) and after error corrections, the department shall
6 reduce the designation to reflect the actual amount of the refund that the individual
7 is otherwise owed, after crediting under ss. 71.75 (9) and 71.80 (3) and (3m) and after
8 error corrections.

9 (e) *Eligible governing bodies; failure to select governing body.* 1. Annually, no
10 later than July 1, a governing body that is owed school lunch debt may apply to the
11 department, on a form provided by the department, to receive donations designated
12 under par. (b) 1. The form shall require that the governing body report the amount
13 of school lunch debt owed to it, the number of pupils owing the debt, and any other
14 information requested by the department. Upon a determination by the department
15 that a governing body has complied with this paragraph, the department shall
16 approve the governing body's application.

17 2. A designation under par. (b) 1. shall be void if the individual fails to select,
18 on the individual's income tax return, an eligible governing body to receive the
19 donation.

20 (f) *Conditions.* A designation under par. (b) 1. shall be void if the individual
21 places any conditions on the designation.

22 (g) *Tax return and instructions.* 1. The secretary of revenue shall provide a
23 place for the designations under this subsection, including a place for an individual
24 to select the eligible governing body to receive the donation designated under par. (b)
25 1.

1 2. The secretary shall list all eligible governing bodies in the instructions for
2 the individual income tax return. The instructions shall state that the listed
3 governing bodies are eligible to receive donations to be used solely to repay student
4 lunch debt and that an individual who chooses to make a donation must select one
5 of the listed governing bodies to receive the donation and may not request that the
6 donation be used to repay the student lunch debt of a specific pupil.

7 (h) *Certification of amounts.* Annually, no later than September 15, the
8 secretary of revenue shall certify to the department of administration and the state
9 treasurer all of the following:

10 1. The total amount of the administrative costs, including data processing
11 costs, incurred by the department in administering this subsection during the
12 previous fiscal year.

13 2. The total amount received from all designations under this subsection
14 during the previous fiscal year.

15 3. The net amount remaining after the administrative costs, including data
16 processing costs, under subd. 1. are subtracted from the total received under subd.

17 2.

18 (i) *Appropriations.* From the moneys received from designations under this
19 subsection, an amount equal to the sum of administrative expenses, including data
20 processing costs, certified under par. (h) 1. shall be deposited in the general fund and
21 credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.566 (1) (hp), and the net amount
22 remaining that is certified under par. (h) 3. shall be transferred to the eligible
23 governing bodies selected to receive donations under par. (b) 1. An amount
24 transferred to a governing body under this paragraph shall be used only for the
25 purpose of repaying the student lunch debt owed to the governing body.

1 (j) *Void designations.* If a designation under par. (b) 1. is void for any reason,
2 the department shall disregard the designation and determine amounts due, owed,
3 refunded, and received without regard to the void designation.

4 (k) *Amounts subject to refund.* Amounts designated under this subsection are
5 not subject to refund to the taxpayer unless the taxpayer submits information to the
6 satisfaction of the department, within 18 months after the date on which the taxes
7 are due or the date on which the return is filed, whichever is later, that the amount
8 designated is clearly in error. Any refund granted by the department under this
9 paragraph shall be deducted from the moneys received under this subsection in the
10 fiscal year for which the refund is certified.

11 **SECTION 1s.** 71.10 (5s) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 71.10 (5s) (c) Beginning in September 2014, based on the amounts certified by
13 the secretary of revenue in August or September 2013, and 2014, as specified in subs.
14 (5) (h), (5e) (h), (5f) (h), (5g) (h), (5h) (h), (5i) (h), (5j) (h), (5jm) (h), (5k) (h), (5km) (h),
15 and (5m) (h), and for every 2-year period thereafter, the secretary of revenue shall
16 rank the checkoffs based on the total amount of designations received for each
17 checkoff for each 2-year period. For each 2-year period, beginning with 2014, the
18 secretary of revenue shall rank every checkoff that is created under this section.

19 **SECTION 1t.** 71.10 (5s) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 71.10 (5s) (e) For any taxable year that begins after December 31, 2014,
21 individuals may not make a designation for any checkoff which did not generate at
22 least an average of \$50,000 of designations per year over the most recent 3-year
23 period as certified by the secretary of revenue under subs. (5) (h) 3., (5e) (h) 2., (5f)
24 (h) 2., (5fm) (h) 2., (5g) (h) 2., (5i) (h) 2., (5j) (h) 2., (5jm) (h) 2., (5k) (h) 2., (5km) (h)

1 2., and (5m) (h) 2. Once a checkoff is affected by this paragraph, no further checkoffs
2 may be designated to that checkoff in any taxable year.”.

3 **2.** Page 6, line 5: after that line insert:

4 **“Section 2. Initial applicability.**

5 (1) The treatment of ss. 20.566 (1) (hp) and 71.10 (5jm) and (5s) (c) and (e) first
6 applies to taxable years beginning on January 1 of the year following the year in
7 which this subsection takes effect.”.

8 (END)



LAKESHIA MYERS

Wisconsin State Representative • 12th Assembly District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

**Assembly Committee on Committee on Education
Public Hearing AB 84
Testimony of State Representative LaKeshia Myers
May 30, 2019**

Dear Assembly Education Committee Colleagues,

I am fervently in support of AB 84, which would impose requirements related to school lunch and breakfast programs in Wisconsin schools. For many Wisconsin children, the only consistent meals they have are offered at school. According to the most recent information from the Department of Public Instruction, the statewide Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) population has more than doubled since 2001, increasing from twenty-one percent to forty-three percent in 2012, (WI Department of Public Instruction, 2019).

Traditionally, families have one opportunity to qualify for free and reduced lunch, at the beginning of each school year via the federal impact aid survey. In larger districts, there are funds available for students whose families may have a change in income status, and this is accounted for within the local education budget. However, for many parents and families, there is not another opportunity to reapply for free lunch if such a change takes place. In this instance, student lunch accounts can fall into arrears and students can be denied meals or given alternative meals to eat. This has been reported in both the national media and locally, as evidenced by incidents in the Hamilton and the Stanley-Boyd School Districts.

In the 12th Assembly District, I represent the largest school district in the state, Milwaukee Public Schools, as well as the thirteenth largest district, Wauwatosa Public Schools.

After years of seeing the free and reduced meal population increase, Milwaukee Public Schools had the foresight to seek a Community Eligibility Provision from the USDA to ensure that all students enrolled in the district receive free breakfast and lunch. This proved to be successful for the district, and has greatly improved academic outcomes and increased attendance in MPS. It is my hope that in moving AB84 forward, many of our rural districts (where more than half of the student population is eligible for free and reduced lunch) will work with districts like MPS to also qualify for Community Eligibility Provisions and end the process of lunch debt and shaming. Thus, easing the burden on families and school districts as well.

With more Wisconsin students qualifying for free and reduced meals, this legislation is a proactive approach to a larger problem that if left unaddressed, will cause more harm in the long run. I encourage my colleagues on this committee to support AB84, and hunger free schools, as it is in the best interest of Wisconsin students.

Sincerely,

Representative LaKeshia N. Myers



TIMOTHY RAMTHUN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 59th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

5/30/2019

Testimony on Assembly Bill 84, Assembly Committee on Education

Chairman Thiesfeldt and Members of the Assembly Education Committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing today and allowing me to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 84, which seeks to end the practice of so called 'lunch shaming' in our schools around Wisconsin.

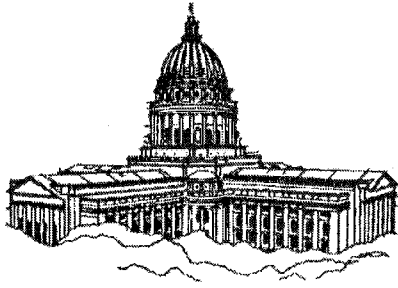
Currently, across our state, there are students whose parents are struggling to pay the costs associated with their school providing lunch on a daily basis. For these students, they face the possibility of repercussions being taken against them for not being able to afford their lunch.

These repercussions range from denial of lunch, lunch being taken away from the student, or forcing the student to call their parents to inform of them of their low balance, among others. Assembly Bill 84 removes the possibility of repercussions being taken against the student themselves for not being able to afford lunch at school.

Students attend school for the purposes of learning and being equipped with skills to be a productive member of society. They do not attend school to face the possibility of harassment, bullying, and the pressures of financial hardships associated with not being able to afford lunch. Students must be allowed to focus on their studies, while financial matters should be handled exclusively between the school administration and the student's parents.

AB84 mandates that schools must provide a meal similar in quality to the free or reduced cost lunch provided to other students if a student is not able to afford the regular lunch. In addition, school officials are expressly prohibited from identifying and stigmatizing those who cannot afford lunch through doing chores to make up the cost, having lunch taken away, or involving the student in financial matters associated with their lunch account.

It's time to end lunch shaming in our schools, and this bill accomplishes that. Thank you again for holding this hearing on AB84 and allowing me to testify in favor of it. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

**Assembly Committee on Education
Public Hearing AB 84
Testimony of State Senator Lena C. Taylor
May 30, 2019**

Chairman Thiesfeldt, Vice-Chair Kitchens, and Members of the Committee, thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit written testimony on Assembly Bill 84, regarding imposing requirements related to school lunch and breakfast programs in certain schools. Simply put, this bill seeks to address issues such as “lunch shaming” or disparate treatment of a student because of their family’s inability or problems paying for their school meals.

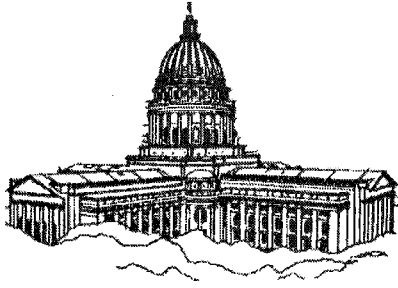
Let me start by saying, this is an adult problem and children have no business being a “go-between debt collector or negotiator” in this process. States have said they can no longer allow school meal programs to operate in the red. Funding is scarce and there was a push to get parents to comply with their portion of school meal expenses. But somewhere, that push took an ugly turn.

Over the last couple of years, national news stories have highlighted child after child, being denied a meal in a cafeteria. In addition, school districts began to warn graduating seniors that they would not receive caps and gowns unless their meal debt was paid. Whether the child’s family had no money to pay for the meal or had an outstanding balance on their meal account, misguided policies like these only made matters worse.

School officials have thrown the impacted child’s meal away or given them a cheese/P&J sandwich, as opposed to the same meal that their classmates were provided. The embarrassment didn’t stop with just the meal. Incidents have been reported of students being physically pulled out of lunch lines. If they were younger students, some school administrators have stamped their hand with the words “I owe lunch money”. As if school today isn’t already hard enough for some students to navigate, without the added embarrassment and pressure of something that is beyond their control. In addition, children with food insecurities are said to be less resilient, prone to illness and suffer from decreased concentration. As, a state, we can do something about this!

AB 84 would require certain schools to provide a lunch or breakfast, regardless of any outstanding financial obligation, to students who request such meals. AB 84 would also require that schools clearly explain the application process to families regarding the eligibility for free or reduced school meals. Under this bill, children would not be punished or allowed to go hungry, while the adults (parents and school administrators) work out a solution. Sometimes, even possible solutions have violated policy, like accepting a donation to the district to cover outstanding lunch bills. With AB 84, we change that practice.

In Milwaukee Public Schools, we figured this out a few years ago. It is time to take steps around the rest of the state to ensure that all of our children and youth are on equal footing when it comes to school nutrition and access to quality meals. Most of us are familiar with studies and data that reports many families rely on meals provided at school. In fact, in Wisconsin roughly 82 million school lunches and 26 million breakfasts are served annually. It is my hope that we will join other at least 16 other states, such as New Mexico, Washington, California, New York in passing this measure to treat



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

all of our youth the same during school meals. I am hopeful you will see the merits in AB 84 and support this bill. Thank you for your attention.



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

May 30, 2019

Assembly Committee on Education

Testimony on Assembly Bill 84

Bobbie Guyette and Kerri Mallicoat on Behalf of the School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin

Good morning Chairman Thiesfeldt, Vice-Chair Kitchens, Ranking member Pope, and committee members,

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 84 and allowing us the opportunity to testify for informational purposes.

My name is Bobbie Guyette and I am the Supervisor of School Nutrition for the School District of New Richmond in New Richmond, Wisconsin. We are a district of about 3,200 students.

My name is Kerri Mallicoat and I am the Director of Nutrition for the West Salem and Bangor Districts, and the current vice president of the School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin.

We are testifying on behalf of the School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin, which represents over 1,000 school nutrition professionals across the state. SNA-WI represents everyone from school district nutrition directors, who oversee all aspects of foodservice in schools and ensure meal programs are administered in accordance with local, state and federal law, to school nutrition managers who oversee the day-to-day operations and ensure safety and meal quality standards are met, to school foodservice employees who prepare and serve meals to students.

SNA-WI is grateful to Representative Tauchen for raising awareness on the school meal programs. SNA-WI agrees that no student should ever feel identified or shamed due to their meal account balance or lack thereof. The reality is that negative meal accounts do occur and it is not the fault of the child.

School districts administering USDA programs, like the National School Lunch Program, are required by federal regulation to develop a local negative balance policy, obey federal civil rights regulations, and to follow federal regulation regarding free and reduced meals. Wisconsin school district nutrition professionals have and will continue to adhere to all federal regulations previously mentioned and do so in a way that works best for their individual community when that flexibility is allowed knowing that the obedience to these checks and balances is for the benefit of the children participating in our programs.

School nutrition departments are financially maintained solely through the sale of food and reimbursements from federal and state levels. Our school nutrition financial fund is titled Fund 50 and is kept very much separate from all other budgets within school districts. In other words we are strictly self-maintained. If at the end of the fiscal year a school nutrition department finds they are in the "red"

they are required to balance their budget from the school district's general fund, also known as Fund 10. Fiscal solvency is a monitored and weighted heavily in program evaluations by the Department of Public Instruction School Nutrition Team. The ability to stay financially viable is crucial to our communities as well, because if we take funds from the school districts Fund 10 we are taking away student resources and opportunities.

Right now, there are school meal programs in all corners of the state that are in difficult financial situations. Some of this has to do with incurring bad debt. For example, one school district in northern Wisconsin currently has over \$30,000 in bad debt because of parents refusing to pay for their child's meals.

SNA-WI recognizes and embraces our duty to feed children no matter their ability to pay, but the state needs to acknowledge the actual financial cost to the solvency of school meal programs caused by parents not paying for their children's meals. School nutrition professionals need to be allowed the tools to operate within the confines of the law to recoup this kind of debt from parents without creating additional financial burden caused by new administrative requirements. The ability to create local policies in collaboration with school district administrative teams and school boards allows every school nutrition program negative balance policy to be tailored to what is best for their individual communities.

The bill dictates that schools cannot communicate with pupils regarding debt to meal programs. Informing a student of their meal account does not create a stigma or single out any category of student. Free, reduced, and paid students can all be negative if the district provides ala carte, including milk break, as an option, which most districts do. The lack of communication during this step would create an increase in expense and decrease in revenue resulting in a financial burden on the school district school nutrition department and eventually the school district as a whole. Cost comes from increased labor time outside of the service time to manage parent only communication.

The bill also stipulates schools, in certain circumstances, must submit an application to receive free or reduced-price meals on a pupil's behalf if the school determines the pupil qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. How are schools expected to make this determination? How will this align with federal documentation requirements and verification processes set in place for our programs?

Overall the bill restates many regulations that are already required of our programs. For example, paragraph three of the intro leads one to assume that homeless students are not receiving meal benefits. USDA regulation mandates each district school nutrition department works with their district's homeless liaison and automatically qualifies homeless students as free eligibility for school meals. USDA regulation also states that free/reduced students are never to be denied a meal based on their meal account balance.

Another example within this bill already covered by federal law is noted on page two point two in which it refers to not allowing students to earn their meal by doing chores. Our civil rights regulation specifically prohibits this from happening. It is noted that all school nutrition staff are trained on civil rights on an annual basis.

Additionally, the state needs to recognize its duty to fund its obligations. For instance, statute indicates the state should fund the school breakfast program at 15-cents per breakfast. However, the state has

held funding for the program flat for so many years that it's actually reimbursing schools at about 7-cents per breakfast served. The state is only funding 50-percent of its obligation to the school breakfast program, which serves over 30 million breakfasts annually. For years, we have asked the legislature for help, but we receive no relief.

School meal programs must break even. If the programs do not break even, schools are forced to take from their general funds to make the programs whole. This is not a responsible or proper use of general funds which ultimately is made up of our tax payer dollars.

We acknowledge that this bill is noble in its intent and we are highly sensitive to the issue it attempts to address. However, the state needs to be aware that placing additional restraints on our ability to recover costs in the form of this unfunded mandate in addition to the state's unwillingness to fully fund programs, like the breakfast program, forces already-financially strapped school meal programs into even more dire financial situations.

To quote Representative Tauchen's co-sponsorship memo, "Before we can begin to fill a child's mind with knowledge they must first have a full stomach." SNA-WI could not agree more. We know students who have breakfast, for instance, do 17% better in math and are 20% more likely to graduate. We just ask that the committee seriously consider our concerns and understand that this bill will increase our department expenses and debt without any form of financial relief. On a larger scale, but still as important we additionally ask the state address the funding shortages facing school meal programs. The lack of appropriate funding for our programs combined with the increased financial burden presented in this bill will significantly affect school nutrition programs across the state of Wisconsin. It is ultimately only to the students' detriment when these issues aren't properly addressed.

Thank you for time. We are willing to take questions from the committee.



"Leadership in Public School Governance"

JOHN H. ASHLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

122 W. WASHINGTON AVENUE, MADISON, WI 53703
PHONE: 608-257-2622 FAX: 608-257-8386

TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Education
FROM: Dan Rossmiller, WASB Government Relations Director
DATE: May 30, 2019
RE: OPPOSITION to ASSEMBLY BILL 84, relating to school lunch and breakfast programs in certain schools

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) acknowledges that Assembly Bill 84 is a well-intentioned attempt to address a serious issue—what the appropriate response of school officials should be toward students with unpaid meal charges. Nevertheless, the WASB has a number of strong concerns about the provisions of this bill.

Some center on the unintended long-range consequences this bill will produce. Others are more short-term concerns. However, all are practical in nature. Because of those concern we cannot support the bill in its present form. We are willing to work with the author to address our concerns.

School meal programs provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or no-cost breakfasts and lunches to school children each school day. These meal programs operate under laws, regulations and funding administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and at the state level by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Schools are not required to participate in these programs. For example, 361 of Wisconsin's 421 school districts currently offer school breakfast programs.

Participating schools and school districts receive federal financial subsidies and USDA provided foods for each reimbursable meal they serve. In exchange, participating schools and school districts must serve lunches that meet Federal meal pattern requirements and offer the lunches at a free or reduced price to eligible children. The state also provides limited state funding for school breakfasts and school lunches.

Federal law assigns all school children into one of three categories according to their family incomes. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive free meals through these programs. Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive reduced-price-meals. Children from families with incomes above 185 percent of the federal poverty level pay full price. Within each of these categories, the federal government reimburses a portion of the cost of the meals provided by participating schools and districts. As noted, the state also provides some assistance.

The USDA could have addressed the issue of handling unpaid school meal charges by adopting a uniform national policy. Instead, it left this decision to states and local school districts. That is one reason why this bill is before you today. The question of whether the state should be stepping in and, if so, how is something you will have to decide.

To inform your thinking, you should know that each school board and district has developed meal charge policies that are communicated to parents and students—at the beginning of each school year or when a student transfers into the district. Those policies spell out how a district will address unpaid meal charges. In addition, those policies typically spell out how a school or district will remind families of low account balances through discreet methods such as phone calls, text messages and emails sent directly to parents and guardians. In developing these policies, school boards have worked to develop multiple payment options, including online payment methods. All of these policies are designed to reduce and hopefully eliminate situations where a child shows up in the school cafeteria without food from home or resources for a school meal.

Schools also work hard to ensure all eligible children are appropriately certified to receive free or reduced-price meals and also to ensure that families are informed of the school district's meal charge policies.

It is important to note that this bill is not aimed at needy students who qualify for free school meals. These students do not accrue unpaid meal charges because they need not pay for their meals. Even if these students accrued unpaid meal charges before they became eligible for free lunches, this bill does not affect them.

Under existing federal law, a school district cannot deny a student access to a federally-reimbursable meal that is being served at any meal period if the student is currently eligible to receive free meals, even if the student's household owes an unpaid food service debt that was accrued prior to the date of the student's eligibility.

Rather, this bill aims to address situations in which students who are not eligible for free meals (either those who pay reduced price or pay full price (known as "paid meal" students) arrive at school with no food from home and no money to purchase a school-provided meal.

Under existing federal law, a school district also cannot deny a student access to a federally-reimbursable meal that is being served at any meal period if the student has sufficient funds to pay for the meal on the day of service, even if earlier charges remain unpaid. This policy decision is intended to afford parents or guardians peace of mind that they can provide money for their child to purchase a meal without having to worry that the school might deny the meal and apply the money to an existing unpaid balance.

School meal programs, including school breakfast and school lunch programs, make wholesome meals available to school children in an effort to give those children the well-balanced nutrition they need to be healthy, stay focused and be able to learn throughout the school day.

School meal programs are expected to be both financially self-sustaining and run on a non-profit basis. They operate under the expectation that families that can afford to contribute will pay an appropriate portion of the cost of their children's meals.

When children who are not certified to receive free meals enter the school cafeteria with neither food nor funds, this can create a difficult situation for the child and school staff.

It is hard for us to imagine that any school official goes to work wanting to stigmatize a child or cause a child distress during the school day over school meals. And yet, we are aware some regrettable incidents have occurred.

The WASB and its members certainly do not condone the most egregious forms of "meal shaming" such as taking trays of food away from students who no money or who have negative lunch account balances and dumping their food in the garbage. That should not happen. For the most part, we express few issues with banning the most serious "shaming" practices described in the bill.

That said, we are very concerned about several provisions, including the mandate in this bill that districts must serve a "quality" meal, as that term is defined in the bill, to any pupil who requests such a meal, regardless of the pupil's ability to pay for the meal. Among our concerns are that this an open-ended and potentially expensive mandate that would create additional costs for schools or school districts and/or reduce local flexibility to hold down costs.

[Coupled with other provisions that would make it harder or more expensive for school meal programs to recoup school meal debts from parents who can and should be paying either all or a portion of their children's' meal costs, this could lead some schools to withdraw from providing school meals if losses mount jeopardizing access to school meals for truly students.]

As we read the bill, this provision would mandate that a school must provide a meal to a student required by law to pay the full "paid meal" price even if the student has no money to purchase that meal. And because the bill places no time limits on how long a school or school district must do so and places no numerical limits on how many times a district must do so, it appears this mandate lasts for an indefinite period. Under this mandate, a student from a financially able family who wants to "game the system" could effectively force a school or school district to continue to provide that student with school meals until he or she graduates or leaves the school or district.

When I was younger, my father used to tell me, "Dan, there is no such thing as a free lunch." He had apparently not read the proposal before you today.

This is a serious and significant change that should not be undertaken lightly. Under current law, full-price pricing policies for school meals are matters of local discretion. This includes decisions about whether or not to extend credit to children who forget their meal money or whether or not to provide an alternate meal to such children.

It follows that under current law a school could decide not to provide meals to children who must pay the full price for their meals but do not have the money to do so.

Many school boards have addressed this situation by adopting local district policies that allow them to offer an alternate meal students who are unable to pay. It appears this bill would eliminate this option or at least severely restrict it.

In general terms, an alternate meal is a meal that is offered to a student who is unable to pay for (or charge) the meal that the student would have otherwise been permitted to select without any school-imposed restrictions. In other words, an alternate meal can be thought of as a backup plan for situations where a student is not able to individually select and pay for his/her food on a particular day, but where the student still needs or requests food that is provided by the school. Alternate meals that are provided at no cost (or charge) to the student or family are sometimes called "courtesy meals." Many schools have been creative in their approach to these meals.

To avoid overtly identifying a student as unable to pay or having an unpaid meal balance, many schools have created a procedure under which the meal is provided in a plain brown bag or in an insulated lunch bag, and under which the meal can be picked up (e.g., in the school office) or delivered (e.g., to the student's classroom) prior to the meal period. The process can be similar to how the school handles forgotten lunches that are dropped off at school by a family member.

Other schools take the approach of including the alternate meal as a regular menu item that is available for purchase by others to help ensure that children who are unable to pay will not be the only children eating the designated alternate meal.

The point is that school districts currently have discretion regarding what type of alternate meal will be offered and whether there will be any charge for the alternate meal.

Any school that is thinking about offering alternate meals must consider is the interplay with federal nutrition standards.

Since 2010, the USDA has been implementing a variety of new nutrition standards that must be met by schools that operate a federally-subsidized food service program. For example, federally-reimbursable meals included on daily menus must meet specific "meal pattern" requirements.

While some people equate alternate meals with cheese or peanut butter sandwiches, a carton of milk and some fruit, there are actually many different methods of structuring an alternate meal option. If a school district, for example, intends to claim federal reimbursement for the alternate meals, the meals must meet the nutrition standards and other requirements for a reimbursable meal. If a district does not seek reimbursement for an alternate meal but imposes a charge for the meal that is to be paid by the family, the "smart snacks" nutrition standards and other pricing requirements must be met. Or, if the district neither claims federal reimbursement nor imposes any charge for alternate meals, then the only applicable nutrition standards would be those that have been set locally.

This bill upends that local discretion and decision-making.

Essentially, what the bill does is to mandate that a school must provide a regular school meal to each pupil whose family income would require them to pay full price who requests one for as long as the student requests one. This is an invitation for students whose incomes do not qualify them for a free or reduced price meal to “game the system.” A school or district would be unable to substitute a cheaper (or “inferior meal” as the bill calls it) to a student whose family is able to pay but, for whatever reason, neglects or refuses to pay.

Under the bill, it appears a school or district would have only one option: Allow reduced price eligible students or “paid meal” students who have no money to select any reimbursable meal that is on the menu that day as his/her alternate meal, and then claim federal reimbursement at the appropriate level (i.e., at either the reduced-price rate or the regular paid rate).

As we noted, there is no time limit under the bill as to how long this situation could continue (or the student could continue to “game the system”). In theory, a student could “game the system” in this way until he or she either graduates or leaves the district.

We also have concerns about the provision in the bill that provides that if a school board determines that a pupil enrolled in the school is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but no application has been submitted on behalf of the pupil, the school board must complete and apply on behalf of the pupil. It is unclear to us how this provision would operate. Further, we think this would be very difficult in practice.

It is unclear how a school board would make this determination or complete this application without access to confidential information about family income. We guess that not many boards will know the economic status of families unless they request this information when a family registers. Some schools might use alternative household forms to collect economic information for entering this into the DPI's WISEdata database for economic status; however, we have no way to know the extent of this.

Even though a school may participate in a direct certification program, under which data from Medicaid, TANF and SNAP is matched against student rosters, there is no guarantee that a student will show up in an individual run. Participating school districts are required to run a direct certification match at least 3 times per school year of their full enrollment but that does not conform to the timeline in the bill. It should be noted that if a school district participates in a direct certification program and there is a match, there would be no need to complete the application as the student's status as eligible for free or reduced-priced meals would be directly certified. The bill does not take this into account.

We also have concerns that the bill will increase school district debt collection costs by prohibiting a school district from requiring a pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian to pay fees or costs charged by a collection agency retained by the governing body to collect outstanding debt related to unpaid meal charges.

Among other applicable financial and accounting constraints, a school district's food service program and the district's Nonprofit School Food Service Account (NSFSA) must be operated in compliance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (often referred to as the "Uniform Guidance"). This means, for example, that federal funds can only be used to pay for what are known as "allowable costs" within the relevant local program.

If a school district allows students to incur a negative balance in their school food service accounts, delinquent debt that the district is actively trying to collect and that has a reasonable chance of being collected can be carried as an accounting asset within the district's NSFSA—even from one school year to the next. However, once the district determines that certain delinquent debt has become uncollectable, it becomes "bad debt" that must be written off as an operating loss within the NSFSA. At that point, the school district must restore the amount of the loss to the NSFSA using non-federal funds. This is because bad debt is not an allowable cost under the Uniform Guidance. If levels of "bad debt" become so large as to make the school meal program unsustainable, a school board might have to seriously consider dropping its school meal programs.

Passage of this bill will likely cause school districts to consider how their procedures for the collection of a food service debt relate to other policies and consequences that the district has established for the nonpayment of other student fees and charges. While some districts disfavor withholding student privileges due to a parent's refusal or inability to pay a fee or charge, nonpayment of a debt in a student food service account may, for example, cause the district to require the family to prepay other future non-food-related fees and charges (e.g., where installment payments would have otherwise been permitted).

We also have concerns about the provision in the bill that would prohibit a school board from communicating directly with a pupil concerning the pupil's inability to pay for a quality meal provided under the bill or to pay other money owed to the governing body related to quality meals provided under the bill. This would prevent school officials from having a private conference with a student behind closed doors about his or her situation and repayment options. This would be true even in cases where the student is an adult (aged 18) and may be living independently.

All of these provisions are strong concerns for school board members and other school officials who must balance their concerns to provide nutritious meals for all children with the demands of "staying in the black." This issue is important as unpaid school meal debt could potentially impact a school's or school district's ability to serve all children high-quality, nutritious meals. It could even cause a school or district to drop its school meal programs. Such a situation would be particularly detrimental to students who qualify for free and reduced-priced lunches.

We are willing to work with the author of the bill to address these concerns. But for now, we must oppose Assembly Bill 84.



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 84: SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

Presented to the Committee on Education

By Larry Haas, Associate Director, Wisconsin Catholic Conference

May 30, 2019

On behalf of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for information only on Assembly Bill 84, which would impose new requirements on schools participating in the school breakfast and lunch programs. As the public policy voice for the bishops of Wisconsin, I speak on behalf of Wisconsin's Catholic schools.

The WCC, along with many of our private school partners, has consistently supported the school breakfast and lunch programs and supports the laudable goal of AB 84, which is to make certain that students, especially students of limited means, do not experience shame or discomfort simply because they may not have the means to access a daily necessity, adequate nutrition. One of the Catholic Church's primary principles focuses on providing support to the poor and vulnerable and facilitating the elimination of hunger. In that respect, AB 84 establishes a worthy requirement that schools participating in the free and reduced meal programs provide a quality lunch to a student who requests a meal, regardless of the student's ability to pay. It also prohibits school staff from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a pupil who is unable to pay for a quality meal or who has outstanding debt related to a quality meal. Finally, AB 84 also requires schools to help families access free or reduced meal program if it appears the family may be eligible.

These provisions are very admirable. However, we are concerned about the possible interpretation of the bill's language designed to avoid student discomfort due to collection practices for an outstanding debt and the bill's direction on how to collect a past-due account. We ask you to reconsider this language on funds collection.

Many of our private and Catholic schools who participate in the breakfast and lunch programs understand the need for flexibility when dealing with individual family circumstances. We are not advocating to refrain from serving any student breakfast or lunch in relation to the free or reduced-price meal programs. However, families who have the means available to pay for these meals are asked to do so, even if that is after the meal is provided. If these families fall behind for various reasons, many schools have reminder systems in place to ask for payment in a manner that respects the family and the student without incident. Sometimes schools utilize third-party vendors to manage these tasks. However, it is unclear from the bill's language as to whether these vendors may impose, on behalf of a school, a service or late fee on families who are not eligible for these meal programs and have a significantly past-due amounts. We request that this language be altered to allow schools to continue utilizing these third-party vendor systems, especially for families of means who are not eligible for the program.

(over)

AB 84 also requires that when five or more quality meals have been provided to a student as required by its provisions, the school principal, assistant principal, or guidance counselor make at least 2 attempts to communicate with the pupil's parent or guardian regarding the debt to discuss payment options and to offer assistance to the family. However, five meals can be just a few days' worth of breakfast and lunches and there may be a very benign reason for the lack of payment that does not require two contacts from school leadership or the guidance counselor. This provision seems unnecessarily rigid. Oftentimes, resolution of this issue can occur with a simple email from the school secretary, especially with families of means or for a student whose parent or guardian might simply be out of town. The adult supervising the child in the interim may not be aware, for example, of the need to replenish meal funds. If the goal is to avoid embarrassment for the families, it would be wise to provide more deference to the schools in this regard, as they are the ones most capable to know and understand each family and student situation.

Private and Catholic school educators are not opposed to accountability. That is why the WCC does not oppose the majority of this legislation as currently drafted. However, fee collection prohibition should be limited to what is necessary to protect the student and their family. By recognizing the ways in which schools operate, we can respect student and family privacy protection, while at the same time allowing schools to use the tools and technology that allow for efficient administration. This will ensure a consistent and transparent system that maintains accountability without altering the unique character and climate of our private and Catholic schools.

We respectfully request your consideration to change AB 84's meal fee collection requirements to allow private and Catholic schools to retain the flexibility and user-friendliness of their current processes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Statement by Nicole Collazo-Santiago, 9to5, National Association of Working Women
Testimony for Assembly Bill 84
May 30, 2019

Good Morning. I am Nicole Collazo-Santiago, Senior Coordinator for 9to5, National Association of Working Women – WI Chapter. 9to5 is a 46-year-old membership organization that works to strengthen women's ability to achieve economic justice for their families. On behalf of our members and students we've talked to who have been directly impacted by the issue of lunch shaming, we thank you for your time and consideration of our request for your support of Assembly Bill 84.

Imagine, you're in grade school, going through the lunch line. Upon entering your code into the payment system, the cook says (either discretely or very loudly) you don't have money in your account. Then takes your tray full of food, throws it in the trash, stamps your hand PAY MY BILL and *maybe* gives you a cheese sandwich or nothing depending on how long you've been in debt. These are real situations happening to real children in our Wisconsin communities.

Imagine the humiliation, the reaction by other children – either displaying pity or outright laughing - giving bullies ample opportunity to unleash their wrath. Imagine how the lunch worker feels either a rush from wielding that power or shame for having to follow a policy that goes against their values. Most of all, imagine what it's like to go through a 7-10 hour day of school including sports or other activities on an empty stomach. How does that child then focus on learning? How is their behavior when they interact with teachers or parents that day?

Today, we ask committee members to support AB84 and statewide standards that will reduce childhood hunger and improve academic and behavioral performance of our school aged children. How is that possible? By removing lunch shaming tactics of wasting food, 'alternative meals' or withholding food altogether.

Consider High School student Bella's story: *"I forgot to deposit the check for lunch and when in line with my friends, received a cheese sandwich. I was so embarrassed. I hid it under my tray and didn't eat until after practice that night."* The district charged the same price for that cheese sandwich as they would have for a hot meal. There are many more stories like Bella's. This is simply wrong.

Lunch debt happens for many reasons – forgetfulness of working parents scrambling to get kids off to school and then to work; kids forgetting to submit the check for the account, or families that are already food insecure and simply don't have funds or food until payday. Sometimes, that school lunch is the only nutritional lunch that child could get. You will hear more about the statistics, the stories and requests to support simple fixes to ensure no child goes hungry in WI schools any longer. We know these current policies and practices do not reflect how Wisconsin truly values our children and we ask that you take the first step in helping make positive change. Imagine how different the impact of going through that lunch line would be for a child because of your vote to support AB 84.

Thank you.

Statement by Isabella Barnard, Franklin School District
Testimony for Assembly Bill 84
May 30, 2019

My name is Isabella Barnard and I am a graduating Senior at Franklin High School. Today is my last school day so I am unable to be with you. However, I wanted to be sure that my experience with lunch shaming is shared for your consideration. I ask that you support AB 84 to help ensure no child is left hungry or demoralized in the lunch line.

This has happened to me and many of my friends throughout our K-12 school years. I forgot to deposit my lunch money, others have shared same or different reasons why it happened, but the impact was the same. Shame, embarrassment, ridicule, and hunger for the entire day. Yet, our accounts were charged for the cold cheese sandwich – no other food was included.

There must be other ways to ensure lunch debt accountability - withholding nutritional food should never be punishment and a child should never be made a target for teasing or bullying. One consideration might be to treat lunch debt as book fines or athletic fees – they must be paid in full by the end of the year and if there are hardships, there's an application process for a waiver of fees. Funds that cover those waivers for other circumstances could be applied in lunch debt situations. It's unlikely there would be great demand – in the situations I'm aware of, it was usually just a plain oversight or temporary financial setback that led to a low lunch account because some families, even in Franklin, live paycheck to paycheck.

On behalf of all students who have experienced lunch shaming and the hurt it does to the heart of a child, I ask you to please vote to support AB84.

Thank you.

**Statement by Nicole Collazo-Santiago, 9to5, National Association of Working Women
Testimony for Assembly Bill 84
May 30, 2019**

Good Morning. I am Nicole Collazo-Santiago, Organizer for 9to5, National Association of Working Women – WI Chapter. 9to5 is a 46-year-old membership organization that works to strengthen women's ability to achieve economic justice for their families. On behalf of our members and students we've talked to who have been directly impacted by the issue of lunch shaming, we thank you for your time and consideration of our request for your support of Assembly Bill 84.

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Thank you.

Good Morning committee Members!

Thank you in advance for hearing my story. I am unable to be here in person today due to work and was unable to find a substitute. This is a policy change project I have been working on for a couple of years now. My name is Ellen Pawley. I am a Wisconsin Women's Policy Network Graduate, UW Madison Graduate with a degree in Family and child studies, a parent, grandparent, and volunteer with a youth program.

As an Early Education Educator myself, I've seen the effects of hungry children in the class Room. I have been one. I have been pointed out as having the "lunch of Shame" because there were not enough funds in our account to have the regular lunch that other children were eating. I did not feel good about myself, was embarrassed and later, chose not to eat lunch on days there was no money in my food account. I struggled in school, had to work hard and on days I was hungry, it was even harder to concentrate and very hard to sit and stay focused.

Then I had 4 children of my own. With having 4 children pull from our food account, there were times that I missed calculated, or my check to the school was not put on the account by the time the 4th child had lunch. Much to my dismay, they had the "lunch of shame" even though the school knew the balance was always paid off.

It seems like this is an adult system, bullying our youth/children. It seems like this is a horrible way to make our youth feel bad about themselves, yet it is something that is out of their control. Shame on us Adults. In an age where there are bountiful amounts of food, an age where we are trying to build our children's self-esteem and an age where we are emphasizing kindness, compassion teachings to our youth, this Lunch shaming is happening! It needs to be fixed.

The Food and Child Development facts are in!

*Healthy growth and development requires family –centered, community based, coordinated care and support for promoting healthy social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive, linguistic, sensory, and motor development. Research has greatly expanded the understanding of these factors children need to succeed in school.

*Healthy Eating in childhood and adolescence is important for proper growth and development and to prevent various health conditions and has profound effects across the life span.

*The brain needs to be fed throughout the day for optimal performance.

*Research studies over the past decade demonstrated the link between early life events and adult chronic disease. (Healthiest of Wis. Report)

*Evidence is from science-based resources on wellbeing of a child's development depending on a healthy diet.

*Childhood is the critical time in development and has lifelong impact on health and education.

*Results from hungry children or children worrying about where their next meal is coming from, struggle causing more negative adverse results!

*Children & students have a hard time concentrating, they maintain less information when they are hungry.

* Test scores speak loud and clear: Hungry children do not perform to their best abilities.

*Good nutrition results in better test scores and much as a 20 point improvement. That is a difference between an A and a D; Passing or failing!

*As a district, better test scores result in better funding and even more college scholarship opportunities. I know our school district each year publicizes how many dollars came in as scholarships for our graduating seniors.

*Behaviors decline with hunger. The hungry students are more disruptive with negative behaviors.

Good nutrition results in healthier developing bodies both brain and physical as well as mental health. The results in less money spent in long term health care, a cost which is currently 2.6 Billion a year.

And, WE are talking about emotional development and self-esteem development; something that is getting much needed attention now. Consider how you would feel if you are singled out because of a lunch debt on your account. Your food is clearly different than others, known as the "lunch of shame". Some school districts are sending home notes pinned on the students outfit, or a large hand stamp stating "pay my lunch bill", or a "necklace" with a large note saying "pay my lunch bill"! How would you feel? Our child's self-esteem just took a nose dive, spiraling downward.

Then you have the child who avoids lunch all together to avoid the "Lunch of Shame" like I did and continues the day being extremely hungry. I had begun to lose weight so much so a friend talked to a teacher because I wasn't eating lunch. My parents "in my mind" did not have money to spend on food at that time because Dad was in and out of the hospital, mom not working, Dad off of work... as a child's mind works. Yet, I was another hungry child, struggling in school and did not want to look different than the other children and would not do the "Lunch of Shame" walk thru the cafeteria.

Test scores and retention: not so good for a hungry student. Did you know that 31% of our children in the state of Wisconsin are still not getting the nutrition needed to succeed in the classroom on a daily basis?

According to Healthiest Wis. 2020 profile report on nutrition changing environments and policies to support, healthful eating is critical for preventing ill health and to support and improve overall health of the population. A nutrition policy is a good health policy. Healthy eating is a staple for a good life.

By supporting an anti-lunch shaming policy that allows children to have the same lunch as all the other students, with no variance, no "Lunch of Shame", it shows we support nutritional research and results. Nourishment is required for survival which gets us back to our children/students. Data highlights a whole child = a whole school = a whole community where children eating well will perform well, retain more, behavior issues decrease, and we have a healthier learning environment for all.

When lunch shaming occurs, we are using an adult form of bullying; we are embarrassing children, effecting their emotional development along with effecting physical development effecting children behaviors, test scores, concentration and long term and short health. How would you feel if it happened to you?

Please support the anti- lunch shaming bill with the provision that children receive the same meals as all the children, not a substitute meal or the meal known as the "lunch of shame". This bill will pay for itself in savings in health and many of the accounts get paid off by the parents or volunteer donors. It is a win-win situation.

Respectfully,

Ellen Pawley

W138 N6615 Manor Hills Blvd.

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

epawley61@gmail.com

Assembly Committee on Education
May 30, 2019

**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Information on 2019 Assembly Bill 84**

Thank you Chairman Thiesfeldt and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide information on Assembly Bill 84.

Background:

USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016 states that all school food authorities operating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program must have a written unpaid meal charge policy which may include allowing students to charge all types of available reimbursable meals, offer alternate meals, impose a limit on charges, or allow neither meal chargers nor offer alternate meals, etc., in order to maintain the financial integrity of the school's nonprofit food service account.

This policy must be communicated to all families with children in the school and all school or district-level staff members are responsible for policy enforcement. Further, school food authorities may prohibit a child who is certified as eligible for free meals from charging to their account a la carte or extra items (e.g., a second milk or additional entrée) if the child's account is negative, but may not deny the child a reimbursable meal. To prevent overt identification of children eligible for free meals, school food authorities may adopt a meal charge policy that prohibits the charging of a la carte or extra items, by any child with a negative balance, regardless of eligibility status.

Additionally, according to 7 CFR 245.6(d), local school officials may complete an application for a child known to be eligible for meal benefits if, after household

applications have been disseminated, the household has not applied. When exercising this option, the school official must complete the application on behalf of the child based on the household size and income information or Other Source Categorical Eligibility status (i.e., foster care or homeless students) known to the official, and must notify the household that their child has been certified to receive free or reduced price benefits. Because student breakfast and lunch payments are local revenue, states and local program operators are given discretion to develop such procedures to address their unique circumstances.

Policy Effects:

This bill requires institutions that meet the bill's definition of "school" (i.e., any public school, private school, charter school, tribal school, or state residential school that receives state aid for providing school lunches and breakfasts) to provide a school lunch or breakfast to a pupil who requests a meal. Under the bill, the school must provide a quality meal to a pupil who requests one, regardless of the pupil's ability to pay for the meal, and prohibits the school from providing a meal of inferior quality in place of a quality meal.

Further, the bill prohibits those schools from taking certain actions against a pupil who is unable to pay for those meals, such as publicly identifying or stigmatizing a pupil who is unable to pay for a meal, requiring the pupil to perform chores to pay off outstanding debts related to meals, requiring a pupil who is unable to pay for a meal to relinquish or throw away that meal, communicate directly with a pupil concerning the pupil's inability to pay for a meal, or requiring the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian to pay fees charged by a collection agency retained by the school to collect outstanding debts related to a meal.

The bill also requires those schools to provide information and take certain actions related to applications for free or reduced-price meals. If the governing body determines

that a pupil is eligible for free or reduced-price meals but has not submitted an application, the governing body must submit an application on the pupil's behalf. Finally, the school is permitted to accept any donation, gift, or bequest made to the school for purposes of paying for quality meals provided to pupils or any amounts owed by a pupil to the school related to those meals.

Policy Considerations:

- School district foodservice staff are required to end the school year with a positive balance in its nonprofit service account; if the balance in the foodservice account is negative, school districts must transfer funds from its general funds to make the account whole. To the extent that a school's ability to collect unpaid balances is restricted as a result of this bill, the school would have to transfer more from its general fund to cover the larger operating deficit.
- The bill prescribes procedures that are already recommended by federal guidance and undertaken by local schools. However, the bill imposes uniform requirements on the school's ability to collect outstanding debts related to school meals without consideration for a school's discretion to address their unique local circumstances. The local fiscal impact as a result of this bill is indeterminate.
- This bill's requirements only apply to institutions that meet the bill's definition of "school". As defined in AB 84 "school" means any public school, private school, charter school, tribal school, or state residential school that receives state aid for providing school lunches and breakfasts. Recent data shows approximately 20 public school districts do not receive state aid for school nutrition programs.

Hello, My name is Angela Kretchmer. I live in Paddock Lake, WI. My daughter attended Central High School and graduated in 2016. I represent all the parents who have listened to their children explain how the school ripped lunches from their hands. While their stomachs growl with hunger and their eyes and brains stare in disbelief, the administration throws the perfectly good food in the garbage.

We lived in another state for my daughter's entire school life, and then during her freshman year we moved and settled in the little town of Paddock Lake. I was ecstatic that my daughter would experience my alma mater high school, Westosha Central and become a Falcon. Being a single parent and having just moved, my children qualified for the federal free lunch program. Because of this, I was shocked to hear this story from my daughter when she came home from school one day. She was sitting at the table with her friends, had put maybe 2 bites of food in her mouth, when administration had come to her table, snatched the tray from in front of her. She was so embarrassed that she ran from the room, but not before witnessing them throw her food in the garbage. I couldn't believe my ears. Why would a school throw her food away? When I spoke with the school, they told me there had been an error in her account. What they did was a mistake, it should never have happened. However, the social damage was already done. This my friends, this is school bullying at it's best. No student should have to live through this, and no student should have to go hungry. It shouldn't matter if the student's account was -\$100 or -\$0.25. I say this because her account was short less than a \$1.00 when this happened. I spoke with the principle to make sure that she was aware of the situation, only to find out, it was her that actually committed this act. I was horrified once again.

We have an epidemic of mental illness with our students. Can you imagine the amount of anxiety my daughter felt, watching this woman steal her food? It is not our young one's responsibility to carry the financial burden of their families or their schools. That responsibility belongs with the parents. Let's place the responsibilities with the parents. and remove the stigma from the students. That is what I am asking the legislative branch to consider when creating a law, to protect the students well being. To create laws that do not allow the administration to bully their students, and create a social nightmare for them. Also, to consider that every student deserves a full belly at least once day.

Thank you,

Angela Kretchmer
thymelifeadvocate@gmail.com

Statement by Linda Garcia Barnard
Testimony for Assembly Bill 84
May 30, 2019

My name is Linda Garcia Barnard. I work full time, am a parent of five, grandparent of five and spouse of a Madison Fire Fighter. I am a Fellow of Wisconsin Women's Network where I had the opportunity to work with my team on this issue. I want to thank Hunger Task Force for leading this initiative and thank the committee for its time and consideration. I ask that you support AB 84 to end lunch shaming.

From a parent's perspective, I was outraged to learn this was happening in our Wisconsin schools. Yet, when I shared the subject matter with my family, I was humbled to learn it happened to my own children on a couple occasions throughout the years. In our situations, a check was forgotten in a backpack or an email alert went unnoticed. Regardless, I felt a deep guilt hearing my children tell me their experiences. Now, they say they were too embarrassed to say anything to me –instead simply said, "Mom, I need lunch money".

In my research on the matter, I talked with a broad range of parents, lunch workers, teachers, students and legislative aides. Parents shared similar guilt in talking about when it happened to their child. It was never intentional – always an oversight chalked up to a crazy morning getting the kids to school and themselves to work resulting in forgetfulness to send lunch money. Yet, we know there are too many Wisconsin children who don't have enough to eat at home or parents may not have money until payday, making that lunch the most important meal of their day to fuel their bodies and their minds.

Other examples I've heard:

A teacher shared that her staff would pool together money to make sure kids had lunch (before MPS had free lunch for all);

A legislative staffer who was a former teacher's aide said they would put together bagged lunches and call the kids down who they knew didn't have enough money in their account to help the child avoid the embarrassment. Another Legislative Aide turned red and shared that it happened to him as a student and he was humiliated – he didn't realize how widespread the problem was;

A Franklin lunch worker told how she'll let kids slide with a hot meal and whisper to get money in the account but felt sad when other children were not treated in the same manner by other lunch staff – she said their 'faces show exactly how they feel' when that happens.

I've never once heard anyone say that a child deserves to be shamed. They all thought having statewide standards ensuring no child goes hungry or shamed is something Wisconsin should be known to lead on. Please vote yes for AB 84.

Thank you.

TO: Members, Assembly Education Committee

FROM: Sharon L. Schmeling, Executive Director

DATE: May 30, 2019

RE: Assembly Bill 84 – Requirements related to school lunch and breakfast programs

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information about the process for helping children obtain nutritious meals.

The Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools (WCRIS) represents 800 schools serving 100,000 children across the state. Of that, 329 schools participate in the lunch program, providing free and reduced priced lunches to 39,781 children daily. And, 138 schools participate in the breakfast program, providing free and reduced priced breakfasts to 15,084 children daily, according to DPI October 2018 program enrollment and participation reports.

The participation numbers have declined in recent years, as regulation has increased. The increased rules have created meals that are less enjoyable for the children and require more bureaucracy for the schools to administer, so schools have left the program.

AB 84 seeks to improve student participation in nutritious meals by eliminating any shame associated with receiving financial help for those meals. This is an important goal, which we support.

However, the bill's overbroad language creates some challenges for our schools, and could possibly lead to more schools leaving the program, or declining to participate.

AB 84 prohibits a school from requiring a pupil or pupil's parent or guardian to pay fees or costs charged by a collection agency retained by the school to collect money owed for a free or reduced priced meal.

The term "collection agency" is not defined in the bill. Many of our schools use third party vendors, known as tuition management companies, to bill and collect tuition and fees from families. These firms are part of a school's responsible accounting functions because they ensure that families are treated equally in billing and collections and they also administer the school's financial aid in a neutral and fair fashion. These firms charge each family a nominal fee (about \$50) annually for the benefit of this service.

In general, families who wish to avoid the fee and the associated services can opt out if they agree to pay all of their tuition and fees up-front at the beginning of each semester. In these cases, families pay the lunch fee forward, and what is not used is refunded back at the end of the semester.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Association of Christian
Schools International

Christian Schools
International

Diocese of Green Bay

Diocese of LaCrosse

Diocese of Madison

Diocese of Superior

Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
North Wisconsin District

Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
South Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Association
of Independent Schools

Wisconsin Conference
of Seventh Day Adventists

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod
Northern Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Evangelical
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Since this bill applies to any pupil "regardless of the pupil's ability to pay," this could mean that even families who don't qualify for free and reduced priced meals could be barred from using the tuition management company, which will create accounting problems and increase costs for schools. Or, the schools will leave the meal programs.

Further, also problematic is the bill's prohibition of communicating directly with a pupil concerning the pupil's inability to pay, or the need to pay money owed to the school for a reduced priced meal.

Most of our schools send reminders about various school topics home with children in a weekly envelope. The children act as couriers and may be reminded by teachers or other staff to make sure their parents read the envelope for information about upcoming tests, money owed for tuition, meals, field trips or other fees. This would be prohibited by AB 84 and would make it impossible for private schools to communicate with their families about their financial responsibilities in a fair and equitable fashion. Generalized communications like this actually prevent children from being singled out.

Another concern we have is the prohibition against doing chores or other work in exchange for financial aid covering a meal. Many of our schools have parent-approved student work opportunities for older children that allows them to contribute towards their tuition and fees through simple tasks after school. Not only does it allow students to cover the costs of the child's education, but it trains them for the real world of work.

Private schools do not have the taxing authority to simply raise funds to cover families who do not pay their fair share of reduced priced meals. They have to collect from the family who incurred the costs. Private schools need to be allowed to do so in modern and sensible ways. If you want students to have access to the meal programs, you have to be careful about how you regulate them. The zeal to make the meals kinder, might actually prevent access to subsidized meals at all.

We urge you to delete these three provisions from the bill so that private schools will stay in the meal programs and continue to provide students with affordable, nutritious meals.