

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVES LAFLEUR, CARPENTER, CARVER, EDMONSTON,  
FREIBERG, MARTINEZ, AND TAYLOR

SCHOOLS: Requires the inclusion of questions pertaining to food insecurity on a residency questionnaire administered to public school students

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2113 and 3996(B)(24), relative to student questionnaires; to provide for the  
3 inclusion of questions pertaining to food insecurity on a residency questionnaire; to  
4 provide for the administration of the questionnaire; to provide for the confidentiality  
5 of responses; to provide for information on resources and services; to provide for  
6 applicability; to provide a limitation of liability; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:2113 and 3996(B)(24) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2113. Food insecurity

10 A.(1) The state Department of Education, in consultation with the Louisiana  
11 Department of Health, shall include questions pertaining to food insecurity on the  
12 residency questionnaire administered for purposes of the federal McKinney-Vento  
13 Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act.

14 (2) Each public school shall distribute the questionnaire to each student in  
15 grades kindergarten through twelve upon enrollment, change of address, and  
16 reasonable suspicion of food insecurity by school personnel or school-based health  
17 clinics.

18 (3) Each school that does not provide a free school lunch program or  
19 participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision universal lunch program

1 shall also provide the questionnaire each school year to each student who is  
2 classified as economically disadvantaged as defined by the State Board of  
3 Elementary and Secondary Education for purposes of the minimum foundation  
4 program.

5 B.(1) If the questionnaire responses indicate that a student is at risk for food  
6 insecurity, the school shall provide the parents or legal guardian information on  
7 federal, state, community, and school resources and services that may be available,  
8 including but not limited to public assistance applications, social services,  
9 community food banks and food pantries, and school meal programs and food  
10 pantries. For any emancipated minor or student who has reached the age of majority,  
11 the school shall provide the information directly to the student.

12 (2) The information on federal, state, and community resources shall be  
13 compiled by the Louisiana Department of Health, which shall provide the  
14 information to each school at no cost to the school or its school board.

15 C. Responses to the questionnaire shall remain confidential except for  
16 disclosure to a student's parent or legal guardian or to the student if he has reached  
17 the age of majority or is an emancipated minor and to authorized school personnel  
18 responsible for the provision of information as provided in Subsection B of this  
19 Section.

20 D. No school employee shall use questionnaire responses to make any  
21 decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.

22 E. No school board or employee thereof shall be liable for damages in a civil  
23 action for injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises from an act  
24 or omission associated with the provisions of this Section unless the act or omission  
25 constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

26 \* \* \*

27 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

28 \* \* \*



- an emancipated minor and to authorized school personnel responsible for the provision of the information as required by proposed law.
- (7) Prohibits school employees from using the responses to make any decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.
- (8) Provide that no school board or employee thereof shall be liable for damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises from an act or omission associated with proposed law unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

Proposed law is applicable to all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:2113 and 3996(B)(24))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Instead of requiring schools to administer a food insecurity screening to students, require the state Dept. of Education to include questions pertaining to food insecurity on the residency questionnaire administered for federal law purposes (the McKinney-Vento Act).
2. Add that the information on federal, state, and community resources shall be compiled by the La. Dept. of Health, which shall provide it to each school at no cost to the school boards.
3. Add a limitation of liability for school boards and school employees.