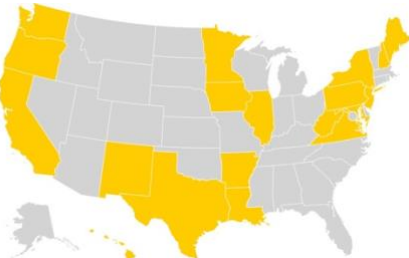
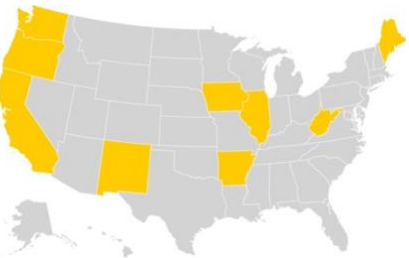



Summary Report

State Laws Regulating Unpaid School Meal Debt

Healthy and nutritious meals are critical to a child’s wellbeing and academic success. However not all families can afford adequate meals, and as a result, some families accrue unpaid bills for meals provided at school. State legislatures have begun to pass laws regulating school meal policies and unpaid bills. You can see additional maps and tables by visiting www.lawatlas.org.

	<p>Unpaid Meal Charges</p> <p>As of April 1, 2021, 19 jurisdictions have laws regulating unpaid school meal charges.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 19 (AR, CA, HI, IL, IA, LA, ME, MD, MN, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, TX, VA, WA, WV)</p>
	<p>Alternative Meals</p> <p>Nine jurisdictions prohibit giving children alternative meals when they are unable to pay.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 9 (AR, CA, IL, IA, ME, NM, OR, WA, WV)</p>
	<p>Debt Collection</p> <p>Two jurisdictions authorize schools to employ debt collectors to collect unpaid debt.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 2 (NM, OR)</p>