



Newsletter

November 2022

Model Policy 534—School Meals Policy

On November 17, 2022, the Minnesota Attorney General issued an opinion stating that “alternate meals” constitute “shaming” as that term is used in [Minnesota Statutes 124D.111](#). While federal law permits school districts to utilize alternate meals, the Attorney General opinion offers the first official statement in Minnesota that alternate meals are inconsistent with Minnesota’s lunch shaming law.

In addition, the Attorney General opinion corrects the Minnesota Department of Education’s “Best Practices” guidance on meal charge policies and its “Sample Unpaid Meal Charge and Debt Collection Template” regarding alternate meals.

In light of the Attorney General opinion, MSBA has updated its Model Policy 534 (School Meals Policy) to remove the alternate meal option that Minnesota school districts had the option to implement.

Instructions to access the MSBA Policy Manual online

1. Please visit www.mnmsba.org.
2. Go to the Resources tab and select Policies
3. Log into the Members area (access is limited to Policy Services subscribers)
4. Click on Policy 534. A clean version (Policy 534) and a redlined version (Policy 534 Redline 112122) can be found at the bottom of the policy page, below the Legal References and Cross References.

NOTE: If you experience trouble viewing the **redlined** version, please go to the Review tab on Microsoft Word and ensure that “All Markup” is clicked in the Tracking section. If the “Simple Markup” box is checked, one cannot see the redlined changes.

If you have questions about Policy Services, how to navigate the online Policy Reference Manual, or the content of the model policies, please contact Terry Morrow at (507) 934-8126 or (800) 324-4459 or by email at tmorrow@mnmsba.org

Jaymyson Sillman (jsillman@mnmsba.org) can assist if technological issues arise related to log-in issues and for accessing model policies or revisions.