

HUNGER-FREE SCHOOLS FOR ALL

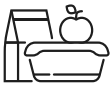
WHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL



It's an investment in public education of children. Children need healthy food to learn in school and School Meals for All would ensure our investment is paying off.



Removes stigma. When schools can serve every child the same food there are fewer divisions between students based on income. The stigma low-income students face is something they carry with them in many ways, and it should not start in the school lunch line.



More students will get the food they need. School districts who have implemented School Meals for All in the past, and districts in Ohio who have implemented it this year, have seen a 20 percent increase in participation when school meals are available to all students.



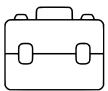
Creates community. When children eat together, they learn together. School Meals for All can mean less time in the lunch line and more time for children to eat together, socializing and creating community.



Less administrative costs. When all children can get school meals, school nutrition departments can spend more time developing delicious meals, and less time collecting school meal applications, taking money in the lunch line, and tracking down school meal debts from families.



No lunch debt. As families struggle to cover the costs of living in our state, School Meals for All would eliminate their lunch debts so they can focus on their families' other needs like housing, utilities, and more.



More resources for schools & staff. When schools have adequate reimbursements for all meals served, they can spend less money on administrative costs and spend funds on staffing, healthy meals, and scratch cooking.



Healthier, thriving students. According to studies, when children are given healthy food they do better in school and stay healthier overall. Healthy food is as important as any other tool for children to learn, grow and thrive.



Keeps children from falling through the cracks. Today's free and reduced-price meals program income threshold is too low to truly account for children and families facing food insecurity. (see chart below)

HEALTHY
SCHOOL
MEALS
HELP OHIO
FAMILIES
FACING
FOOD
INSECURITY



\$23,803: Maximum income for a family of 2 to qualify for free school meals (FNS-USDA)



\$33,874: Maximum income for a family of 2 to qualify for reduced priced school meals (FNS-USDA)



\$65,728: Income needed for a family of 2 to live in Ohio (MIT)