

The No Hungry Kids in School Act

Background:

In the United States, nearly [1 in 7 children are at risk of hunger](#). When children grow up in food-insecure households, they are more likely to see their academic performance decline and suffer long-lasting health and developmental challenges. School meals have helped reduce child hunger and improve students' health, academic achievement, attendance and behavior.

Currently, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve free meals to all enrolled students without collecting household applications if at least 25 percent of the students are identified as low-income. Schools or districts must individually opt into CEP. However, this 25 percent threshold prevents many schools from participating in the program.

Under CEP, schools receive a partial federal reimbursement to provide free meals for enrolled students that is based on the percentage of low-income students (e.g., those eligible for SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid). Schools must then pay for the remaining meal costs from their general funds.

Legislation eliminating the CEP threshold:

My bill, the **No Hungry Kids in Schools Act**, would expand access to school meals by allowing states to adopt a statewide CEP option. Doing so will make it easier for all schools to participate in the program and reduce the amount of paperwork needed to participate.

The bill also removes the 25 percent eligibility threshold, which will allow every school in participating states to provide free meals to their students.

If you are interested in becoming a co-sponsor, please reach out to of Rep. Aguilar's Legislative Assistant, Maryana Sawaged at Maryana.Sawaged@mail.house.gov.

Endorsements: National Education Association (NEA) and the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)