

PUBLIC BENEFITS

THROUGH SCHOOLS

CONVENING

APRIL 9-10, 2024

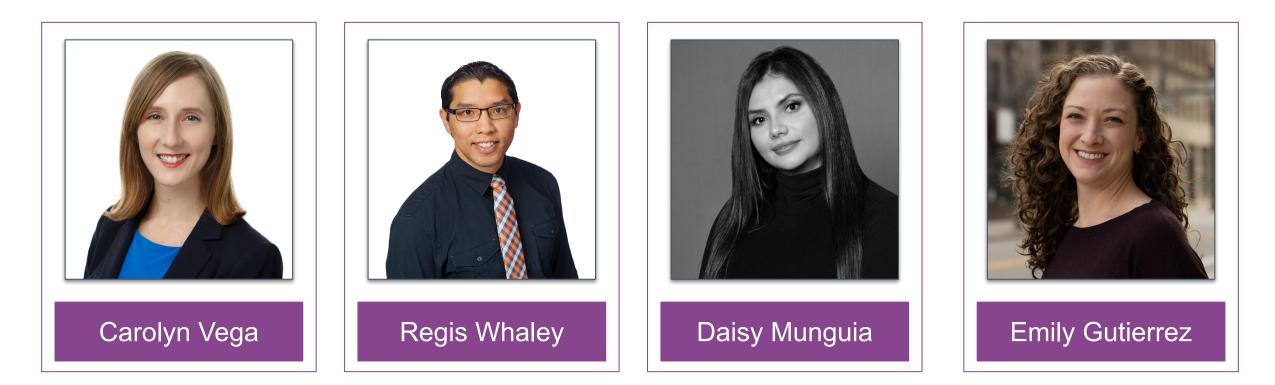




HOW FEDERAL BENEFITS SUPPORT SCHOOLS

IMPACT & OPPORTUNITIES







- Impacts of public benefits through schools
 - School meals access
 - Out-of-school time nutrition access
 - Student funding
- Opportunities to provide public benefits through schools
 - \circ Policy
 - Implementation

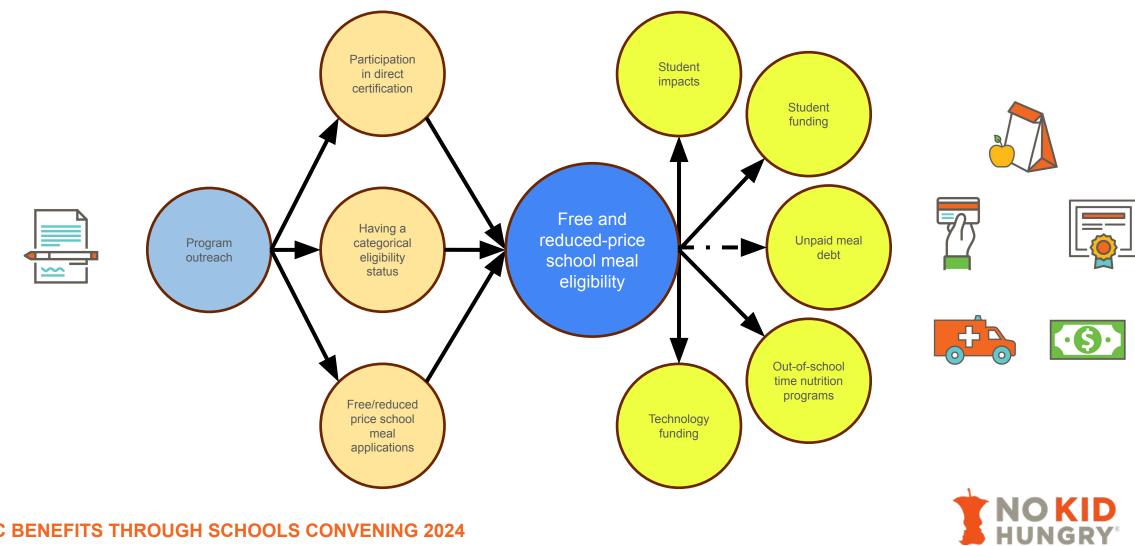


IMPACTS OF PUBLIC BENEFITS THROUGH SCHOOLS

Crowth Hormones*



PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESS CASCADE

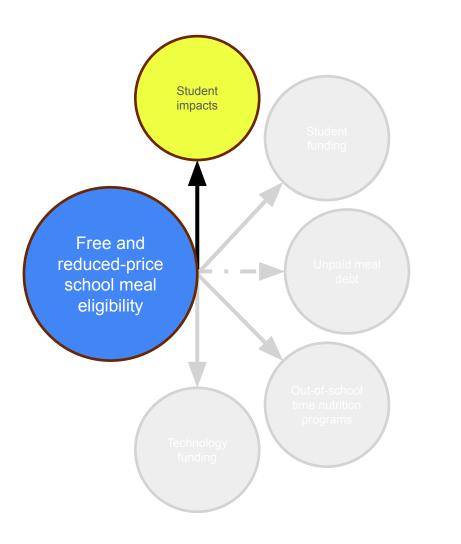


PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESS CASCADE: THE WHY





STUDENT IMPACTS



• Nutrition

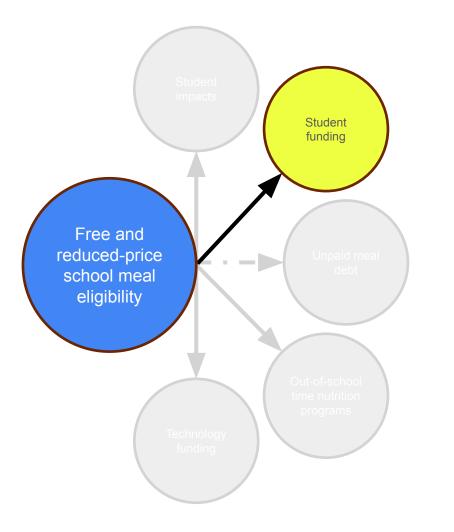
- Half of students' daily energy intake
- More nutritious than meals brought to school

Education

- Eating breakfast correlated with significantly higher standardized test scores
- Breakfast After the Bell correlated with lower rates of chronic absenteeism
- Finances
 - Discounts on standardized tests
 - Discounts on various services for EBT cardholders



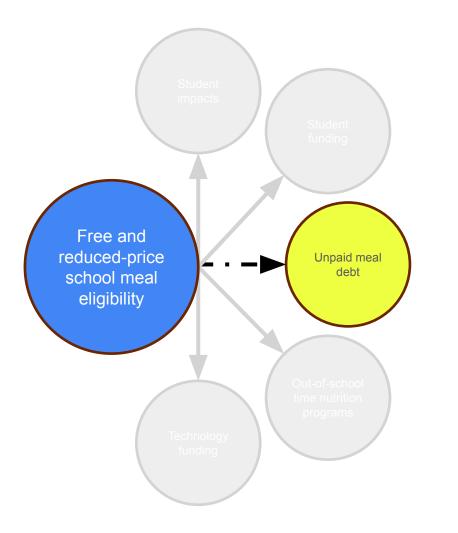
STUDENT FUNDING



Most states allocate funding for students identified as being "at risk." Most of these utilize FR eligibility as a proxy for households with low incomes. Many states elect to use school meals eligibility for **Title I** funding, which provides schools with federal grant funding that is intended to support students from households with low incomes.



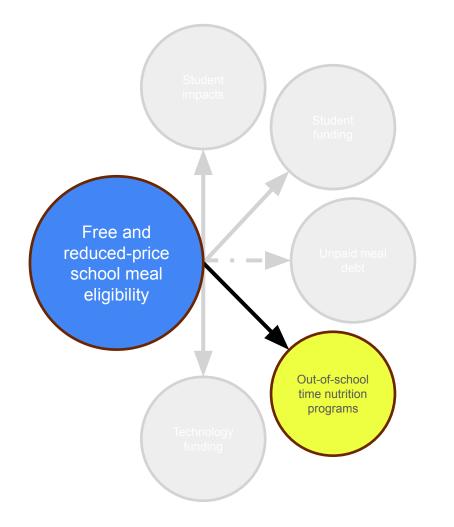
UNPAID SCHOOL MEAL DEBT



Increasing eligibility for free and reduced-price meals alleviates the issues that arise from unpaid meal debt, for both school food service operations as well as students and their families. **Requiring low or no co-payments for school meals can reduce the likelihood and magnitude of unpaid meal debt**.



OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME NUTRITION PROGRAMS

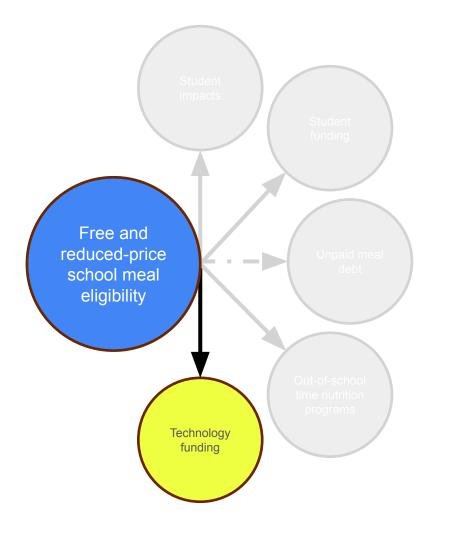


The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**, which provides meals for children during the summer months, and the **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**, which provides meals for "at-risk afterschool programs," can use FR eligibility to establish area eligibility for meal sites.

The **Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)** program will provide grocery benefits for eligible households with children. Households with FR-eligible incomes will receive benefits automatically.*



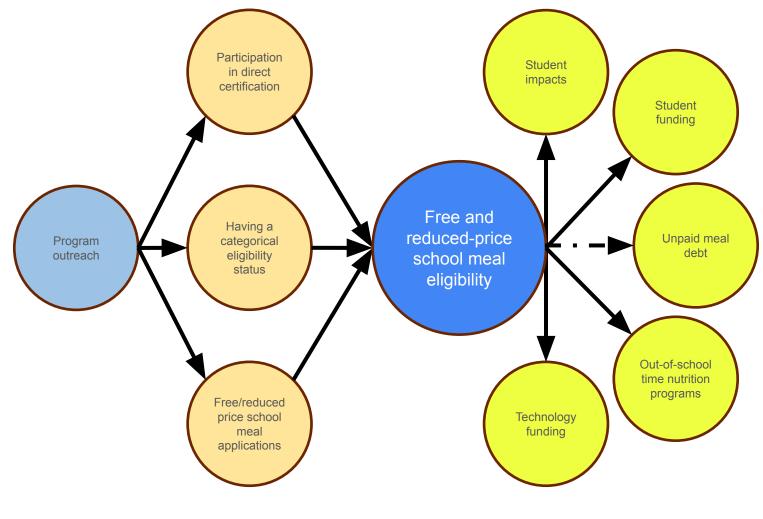
TECHNOLOGY FUNDING



The **E-Rate** program provides funds to schools and libraries for a variety of technology-related products and services supporting internet and network connectivity, security, and maintenance. E-Rate funding scales with poverty levels, with schools and libraries with the highest identified rates of poverty receiving the greatest benefit. E-Rate uses FR eligibility as the basis for estimating poverty.

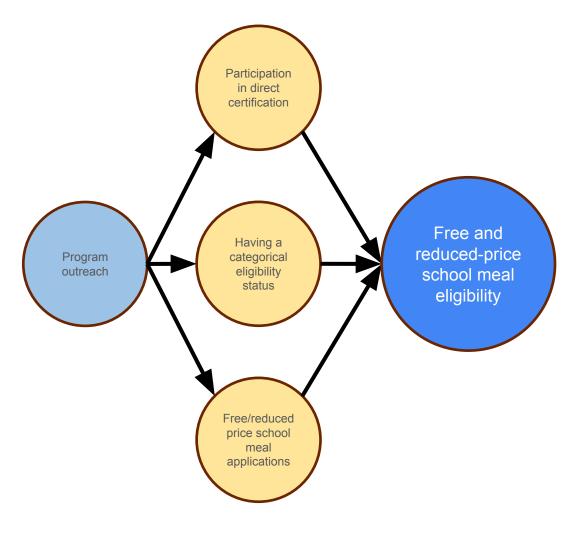


PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESS CASCADE



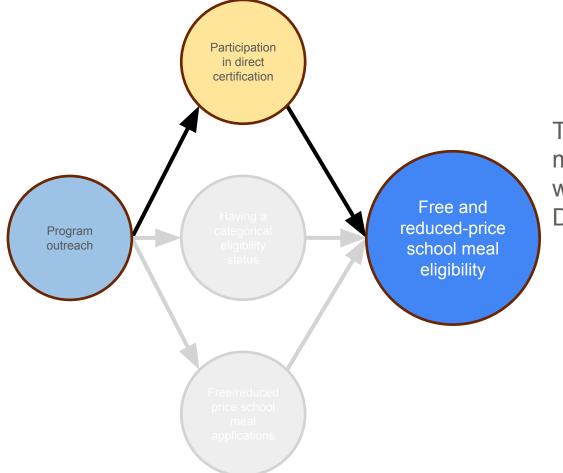
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PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESS CASCADE: THE HOW





DIRECT CERTIFICATION

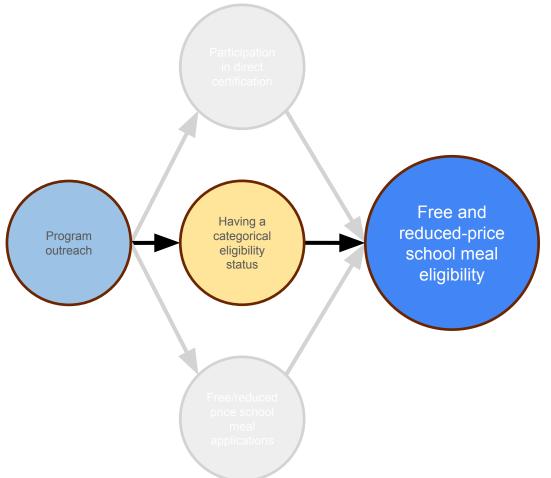


Through **direct certification**, participation in federal, means-tested programs qualifies students for FR meals without requiring households to complete an application. Direct certification-eligible programs include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Medicaid, in participating states



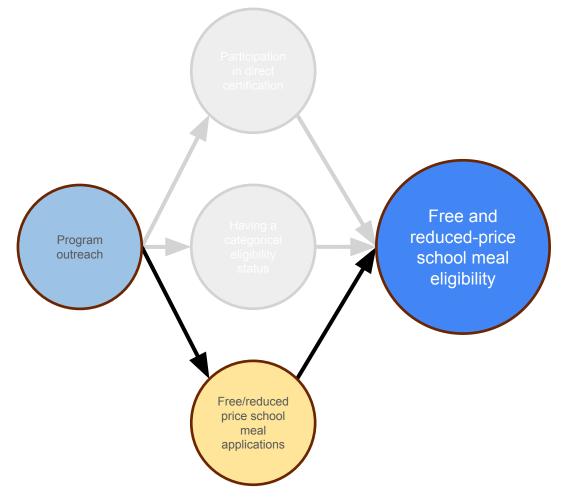
CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY



Students who are identified as homeless, runaway, foster, migrant, or participating in Head Start programs have **categorical eligibility** for free school meals. Lists of identified students may be available through state, district, or local government offices.



FREE/REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATIONS



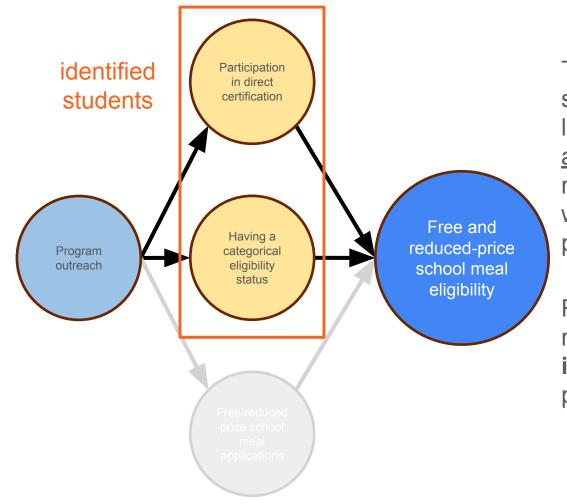
Schools, districts, and/or states may collect applications for school meals. These forms request information about household size and income to determine students' eligibility for FR meals.

Applications must have a place for households to enter case numbers for direct certification-eligible programs. This can help to identify households that are missed in the direct certification process.

With consent, information collected on applications can be shared with state agencies to facilitate enrollment in other public benefits.



THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)



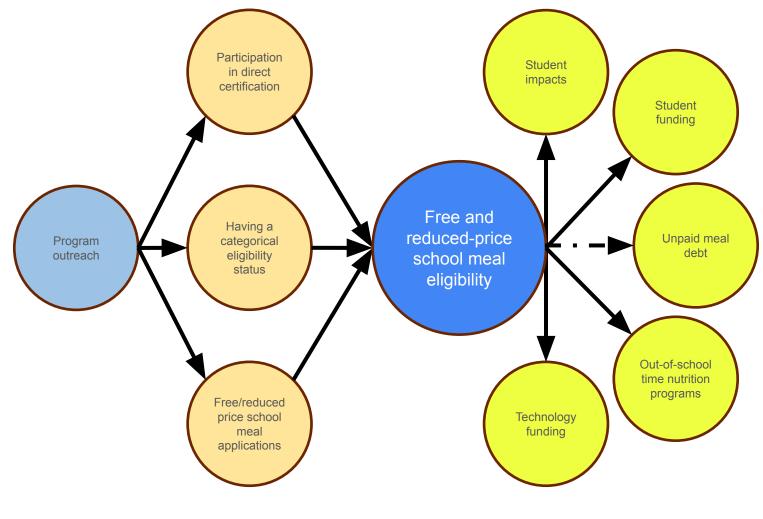
The **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** streamlines school meal operations by allowing schools/districts with at least 25% **identified students** to provide no-cost meals to <u>all</u> students as well as forgo the collection of free and reduced-price applications. Identified students include those who participate in one of four federal, means-tested programs: SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or Medicaid.

Revenue for school meals comes primarily from federal reimbursements and revenue is determined by the **identified student percentage (ISP)** and meal participation.

benefits access = \uparrow **ISP =** \uparrow **CEP eligibility/revenue**



PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESS CASCADE

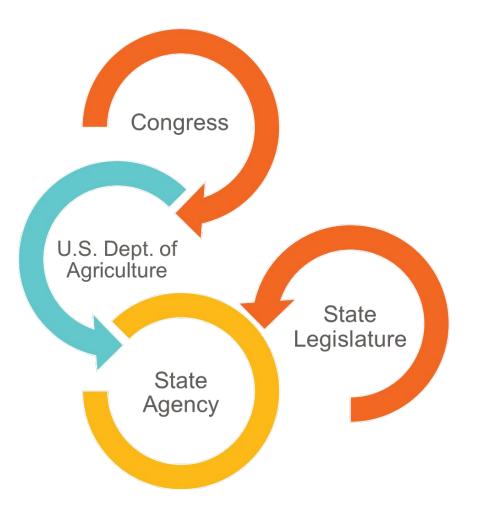


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OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE & LEVERAGE PUBLIC BENEFITS IN SCHOOLS

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CHILD NUTRITION POLICY CONTEXT



2010: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act

- Established Community Eligibility Provision
- Authorized Medicaid Direct Certification
 demonstration projects

2012-13: First cohort of Medicaid DC demonstration projects (CA, FL, IL, KY, MA, NY, PA)

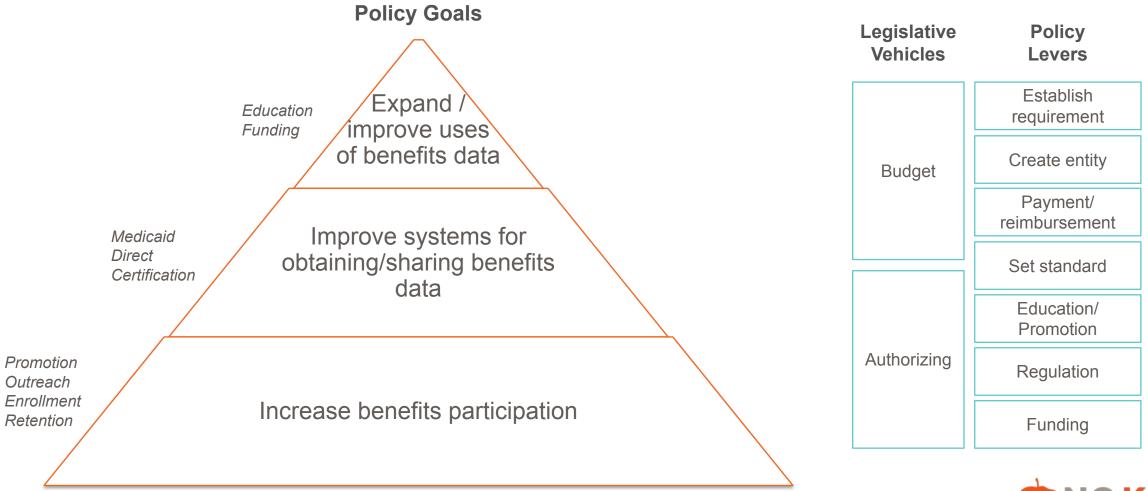
• 43 states now participating

2023: USDA expands CEP eligibility

• Lowers ISP from 40% to 25%



STATE POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

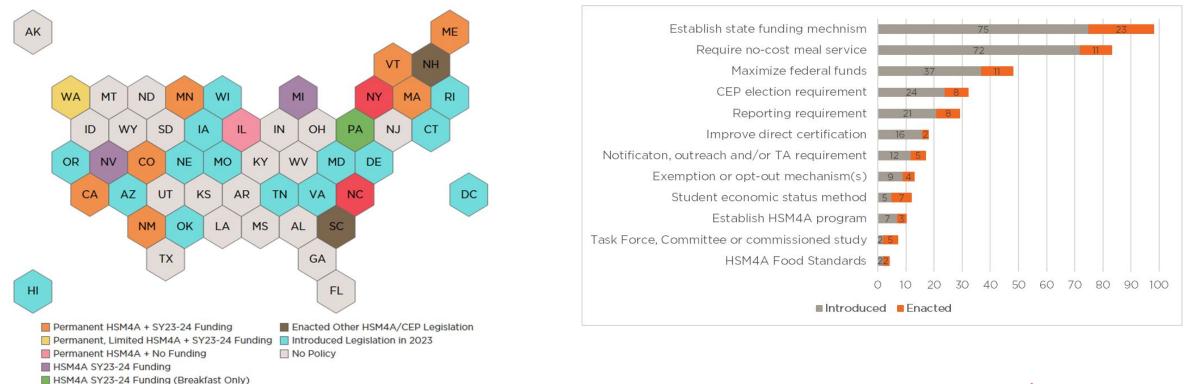




DIRECT CERTIFICATION IN STATE HSM4A/CEP LEGISLATION

33 states and DC have considered policies to allow for HSM4A. 28 states and DC introduced legislation in 2023

Number of State Bills by HSM4A/CEP Policy Option, by Status, 2018-2023

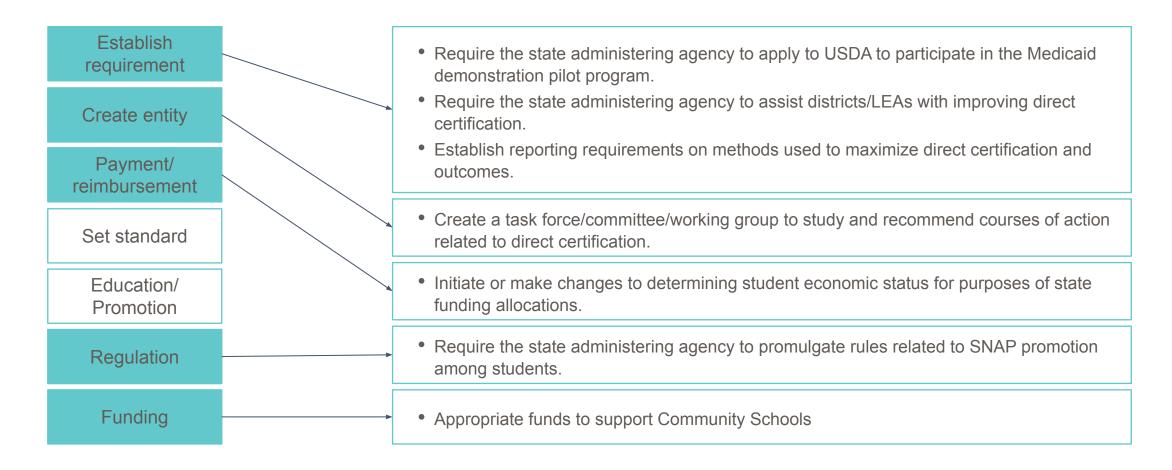


PUBLIC BENEFITS THROUGH SCHOOLS CONVENING 2024

Enacted Other HSM4A/CEP Legislation + Intro...



STATE POLICY APPROACHES

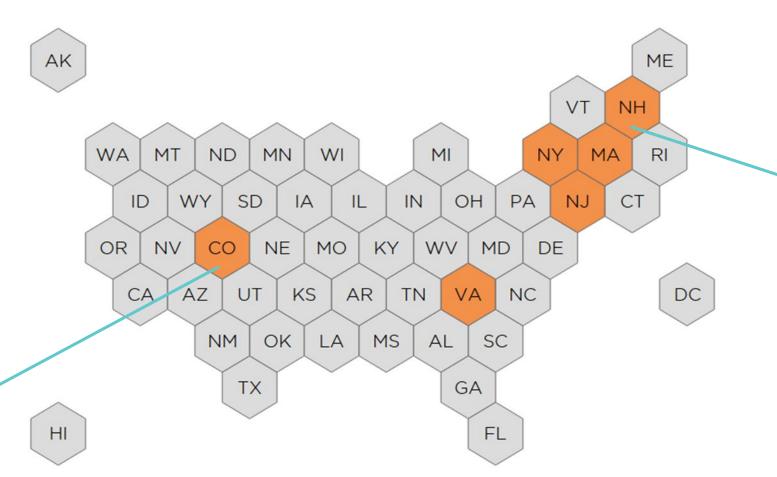




PROMOTE DIRECT CERTIFICATION: REQUIRE MEDICAID DEMONSTRATION PILOT

HB22-1414 enacted (2022)

"As soon as practicable after the effective date of this part 2, the department shall apply to the federal secretary of agriculture to participate in the demonstration project operated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec.1758 (b)(15) for direct certification for children receiving Medicaid benefits. with the intent that the demonstration project is implemented statewide to the extent allowable under federal law." Sec. 22-82.9-204(4))



S.B.242 introduced (2023)

"The department of education and department of health and human services shall submit an application for participation in the Demonstration Projects for states to evaluate the impact of using Medicaid eligibility data to directly certify students for free and reduced price school meals administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) no later than September 1, 2023."

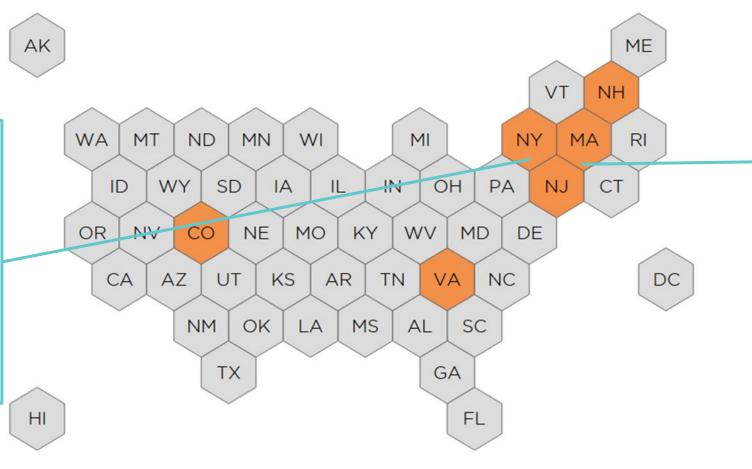




PROMOTE DIRECT CERTIFICATION: REQUIRE AGENCY TO ASSIST LEAs/DISTRICTS

S.8306B introduced (2024)

4. In addition to fulfilling any other applicable state and federal requirements, the department shall provide technical assistance to assist public school districts, charter schools, and non-public schools...to maximize federal funding, including:
(C) Maximizing direct certification for specific populations as allowable under federal rules.

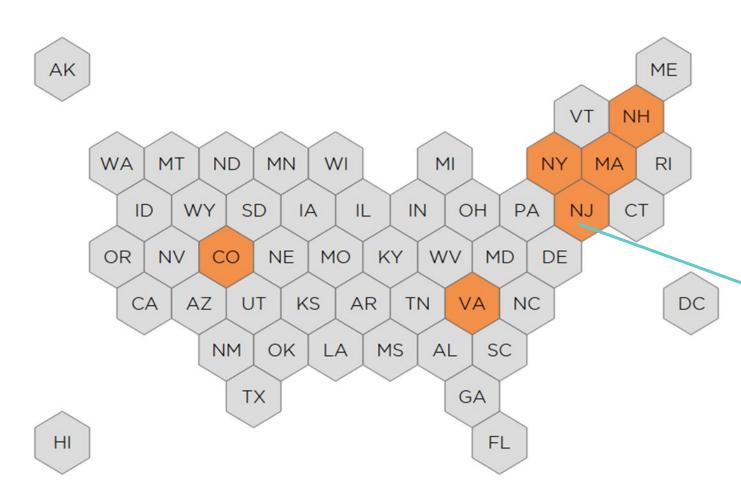


H.3999 enacted (2021)

"(c) A school district that participates in the national school lunch program shall take steps to maximize federal revenues and minimize debt on families under a protocol determined by the department that promotes the certification of students for free school meal status. The department shall assist school districts with improving the direct certification process and reducing administrative burdens on school districts." (Sec. 72A.(c))



PROMOTE DIRECT CERTIFICATION: ESTABLISH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS



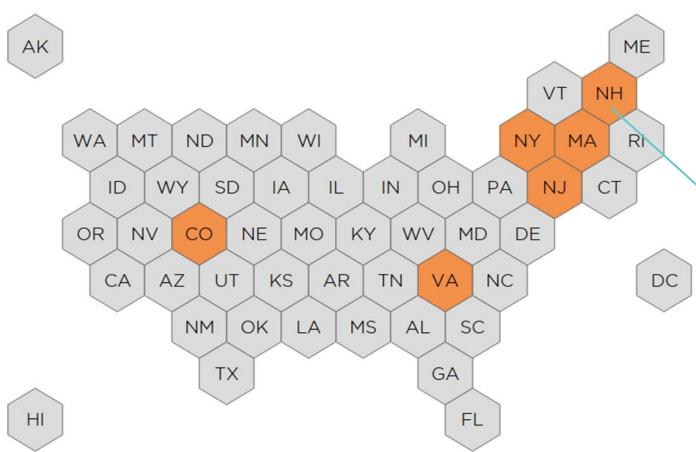
A.2368 enacted (2023)

c. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall annually prepare and submit, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a written report that identifies, for each school and school district in the State:

(1) the methods that are being used by each school or school district to facilitate the prompt identification and subsidized meal certification of students who are categorically eligible or income-eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Program;



PROMOTE DIRECT CERTIFICATION: CREATE A TASK FORCE



H.B.2 enacted (2023)

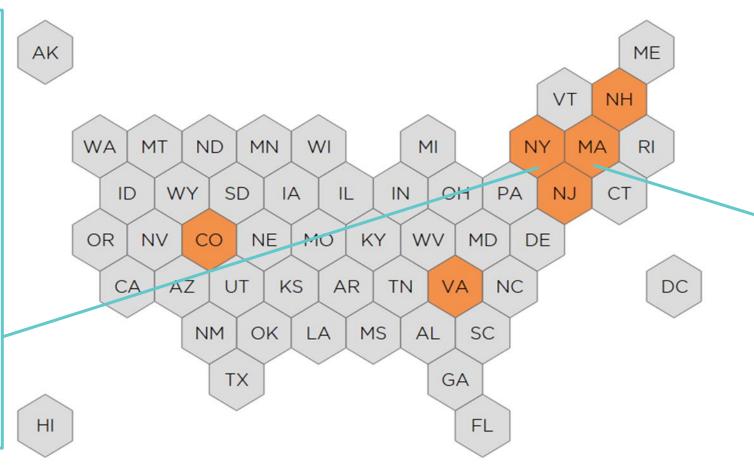
The committee shall study the impact on free or reduced-price meal average daily membership in residence (ADMR) used in state education aid programs in the following ways: *I.* Relative to the recent expansion of categorical eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) from 185% to 200% of federal poverty level. II. If the state of New Hampshire should apply to participate in the demonstration projects to evaluate direct certification with Medicaid administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)



PROMOTE SNAP AMONG STUDENTS: REQUIRE STATE AGENCY TO PROMULGATE RULES

A.9518/S.9144 introduced (2022)

The department in consultation with the office of temporary and disability assistance shall promulgate any rule or regulation needed for public school districts. charter schools and non-public schools to promote the supplemental nutrition assistance program to a student or person in parental relation to a student by either providing application assistance or a direct referral to an outreach partner identified by the department to the office of temporary and disability assistance to increase the number of students directly certified for free or reduced price school meals.



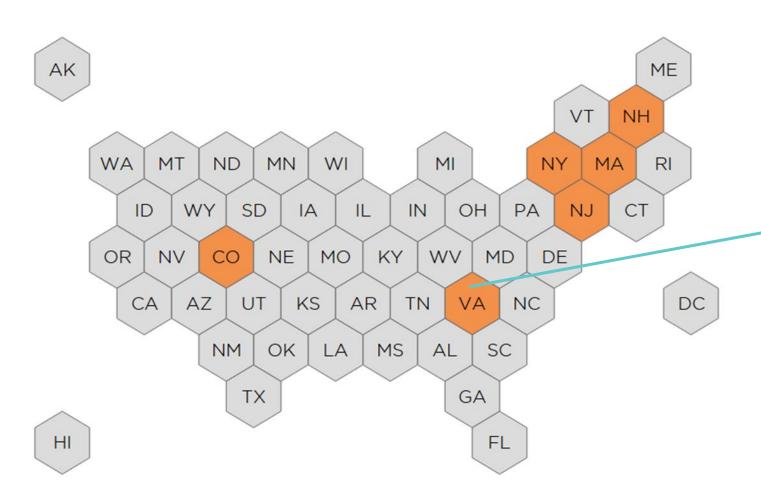
H.603/S.261 introduced (2023)

H.714/S.314 introduced (2021)

The department, in consultation with the department of transitional assistance, shall promulgate regulations for schools to promote the supplemental nutrition assistance program to families by either providing application assistance or a direct referral to an outreach partner identified by the department of transitional assistance or department of elementary and secondary education.



PROMOTE SNAP AMONG STUDENTS: REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION



H.B.253 introduced, 2023

Each school board shall:

12. Ensure that the information sheet on the SNAP benefits program developed and provided by the Department of Social Services pursuant to subsection D of § 63.2-801 is sent home with each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in the local school division at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of any student who enrolls after the beginning of the school year, as soon as practicable after enrollment





STATES EXPANDING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Establishing grant programs (AZ, HI, MS, NJ, NY, OK, RI, TX, WA)
- Appropriating funds (e.g., CA, DC, MN, NY)
- Amend current community schools statues (e.g., MD, MN, OK)
- Establishing broad support for Community Schools as a strategy (HI, IL, IN, NY, MO)

https://www.communityschools.org/news/community-schools-gain-traction-in-state-legislatures/

COST FACTORS IN STATE EDUCATION FUNDING

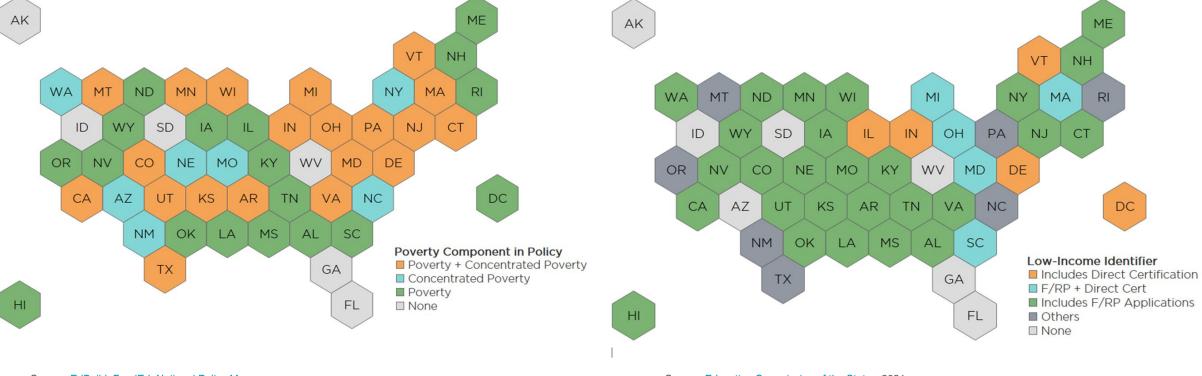
	Student Need	Scale and Sparsity	Grade Range	Price Level of Inputs
F/RP Eligibility	Individual Student Characteristics Economic disadvantage Disability status	 enrollment Population sparsity or and nonacademic programming for person 	and nonacademic programming for students in different	 Geographic differences in resources, including personnel wages and nonpersonnel resources
Medicaid CHIP TANF SNAP	 ELLs Gifted and talented Collective Population Characteristics Concentrations of students living in poverty or ELL students 			



STATE EDUCATION FUNDING

Almost all states provide increased funding based on poverty and/or concentrated poverty

20% of states use direct certification in education funding formula



Source: EdBuild. FundEd: National Policy Maps

Source: Education Commission of the States, 2021





No Kid Hungry – April 9, 2024

How Federal Benefits Support Schools - Impact & Opportunities

Alternative "At-Risk" Measures in Colorado & Implications for Nutrition and Policy

Emily Gutierrez



Free and Reduced Price-Meals Eligibility as a Measure of Student Poverty

- Policymakers have used the share of students certified eligible for free and reduced-price (FRP) meals via income applications as a proxy for the share of low-income students
 - Free: Students whose families earn up to 130% of the Federal poverty line
 - Reduced-Price: Students whose families earn between 130-185% of the Federal poverty line

	GUIDELINES	
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL	
1	14,580	
2	19,720	
3	24,860	
4	30,000	
5	35,140	
6	40,280	
7	45,420	
8	50,560	
For each add'l family member, add	5,140	

2022 24 School Voor

Source: USDA-FNS 2023

What has the FRP measure been used for?

Accountability & Data Reporting

 <u>ESSA</u> requires states (schools) to report things like test scores and graduation rates by student economic disadvantage

Funding

- State funding formulas have used the share of FRP students in a district to allocate additional dollars
- Federal funding (<u>Title I</u>) typically uses poverty measures from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (<u>SAIPE</u>)
 - While districts have historically used FRP to distribute Title I funds to schools within the district, there is <u>new guidance</u> based on recent changes to FRP data

Changes in the National School Lunch Program

Universal Free Meals

- all students are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch
 - Provision 1 (1980) & Provisions 2 & 3 (1995)
 - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) (2015)

Automatic certification for free meals

- Direct Certification:
 - Link between student rosters and public benefit program databases
 - SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, and/or Medicaid
 - Identifies students from household earning up to 130% of the Federal poverty line
 - Better now with Medicaid states
 - Direct certification systems were allowed as of <u>1989</u>, and required as of <u>2004</u> to verify FRP forms
- Categorical Eligibility:
 - Medicaid/CHIP, Head Start, means-tested pre-K, SSI, refugee assistance, EITC, LIHEAP, homeless status, runaway status, migrant status, incarcerated status, student in foster program

CEP & Changes to FRP

CEP schools & districts experience a decline in FRP applications

- This is for two reasons:
 - 1) One of CEP's initiatives is to reduced administrative burden created by collecting free and reduced-price meal applications
 - Therefore, CEP schools or districts are not allowed to use school meal funds to collect applications
 - 2) When all students eat for free, the incentive for families to return the forms decreases dramatically

COVID & the FRP Measure

- In addition to the inconsistencies brought on by CEP, schools across the nation provided free meals for two years thanks to <u>child nutrition waivers</u>
 - Students were
 - remote, and less likely to turn in FRP forms
 - already receiving free meals, reducing the incentive for families to turn in forms
- Post pandemic, schools went back to paid programs, and <u>school meal debt has</u> <u>skyrocketed</u>
- Moreover, because many districts receive state aid based on the share of FRP students, districts hesitate to adopt CEP

State Funding – Colorado Case Study

- CO decided in 2020 that they needed a new, consistent "at-risk" measure for their funding formula that wasn't a barrier to universal free meal programs
 - Only 4% of Colorado's students attended a CEP school
- CO Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance contracted with the Urban Institute
- We conducted a survey, interviewed 30 CO stakeholders, and modeled 7 alternatives using publicly available data
- A strong at-risk measure for district funding would:
 - improve free meal access
 - capture all students
 - align in scale with the current free and reduced-price lunch share
 - reflect actual student enrollment
 - minimize school burden and cost

7 Alternative "At-Risk" Measures

- Identified Student Percentage
 - (direct certification + categorically eligible)
- Identified Student Percentage + Medicaid
 - CO was not a Medicaid state at the time
- State tax/IRS records
 - New Mexico
- Students' residential neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics
 - Texas and Maryland
- SAIPE
 - Oregon
- School Neighborhood Poverty Estimate
- Alternative income information forms
- Urban Institute <u>Report</u> / <u>Fact Sheet</u>

Based on Colorado Specific Context

<u>3 Final Recommendations for CO</u>

- ISP + SES neighborhood context
- Link to state revenue/IRS data
- ISP (including Medicaid) + SES neighborhood context
 - CO DOE to use ISP data multiplied by an equalization factor
 - CO added Medicaid in 2022
 - Can either increase the dollar amount allotted per child or multiply the share of students by a number to reach similar FR levels in one year
 - Districts submit number of students in geocoded census block groups, census block groups ranked into 5 tiers based on socioeconomic characteristics (<u>CO 2023 Memo</u>)

Reasons why

Why ISP + SES neighborhood context?

- Direct Certification is promising, but sensitivities remain
 - noncitizen, undocumented, or mixed status families
 - stringent work or other eligibility requirements for public benefit programs
 - limited literacy or English proficiency, inability to prove income, or other barriers to participation in public benefit programs
 - those with varied name spellings
- Why not the others?
 - State tax/IRS records
 - State would have had to change statutes
 - Students' residential neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics
 - Not student specific enough
 - SAIPE/School Neighborhood Poverty Estimate
 - CO has considerable school choice options
 - Alternative income information forms
 - Already trying to eliminate the need to collect these

CO Passed Statewide Free Meals in November 2022

HB22-1414

Healthy Meals For All Public School Students

Concerning providing healthy meals to all public school students, and, in connection therewith, creating the healthy school meals for all program and providing funding for the program by capping itemized and standard state income tax deductions for taxpayers who have federal adjusted gross income of \$300,000 or more.

 CO Department of Education is still transitioning to the new measure, likely implementing in 2024-25



Emily Gutierrez egutierrez@urban.org





Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD)

CalFresh Outreach

Food Services Agency

Tuesday, April 9, 2024



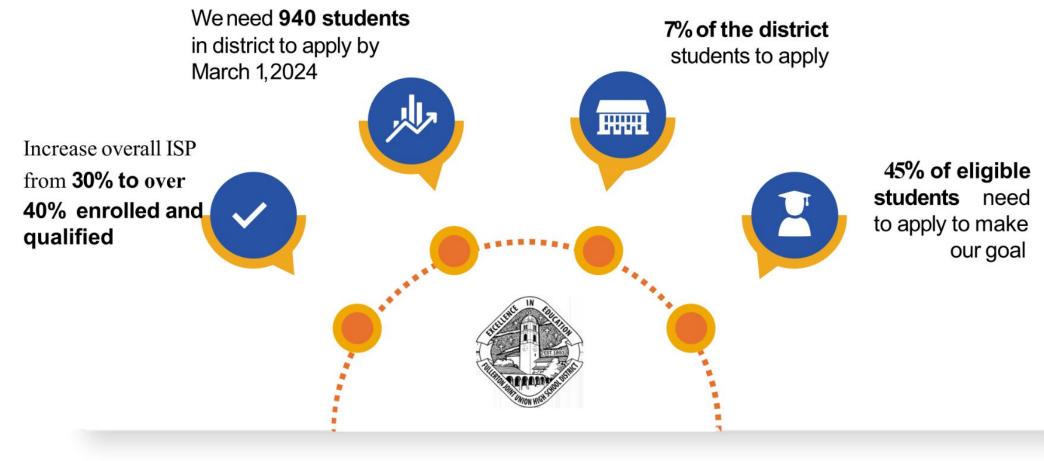


Agenda

- CalFresh Campaign Intro
- Numbers & Goals
- Timeline
- Communications Toolkit

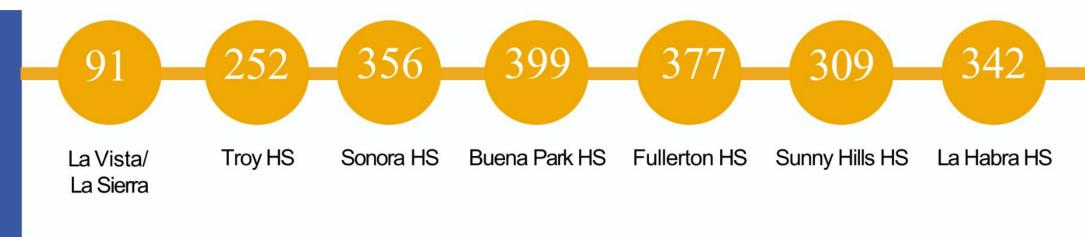












2,126 TOTAL IDENTIFIED STUDENTS





HOW will we achieve this?

CALFRESH CASH4GROCERIES: A FJUHSD INITIATIVE



Send out email announcements, social media posts, text messages, flyers, and more. Events

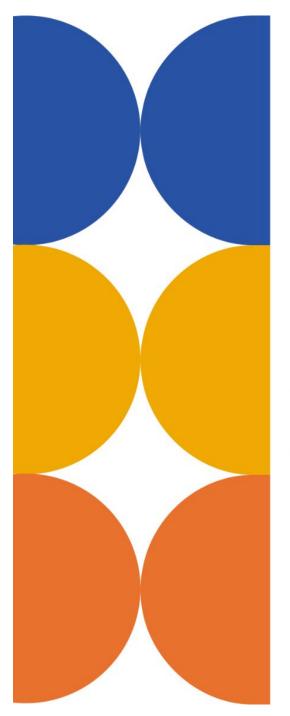
Plan to host 1-2 event throughout 3 phases.



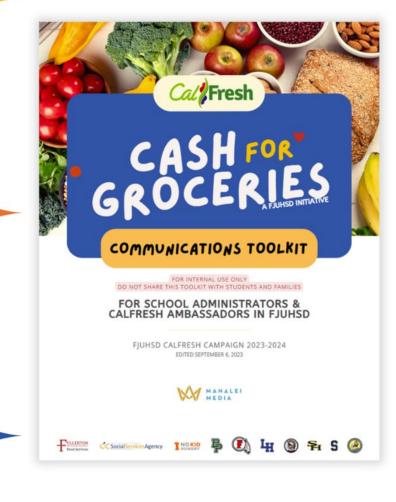
No need to think about original content. Easily copy/paste content directly from the toolkit to your main channels.



COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT







This toolkit includes:

- Detailed instructions for APs
- Access to campaign assets
 - Printable flyers/posters
 - $_{\odot}\,$ Letter to families
 - Copy/paste messaging for website, email, text
 - Newsletter article

TOOLKIT

- Social media images and captions
- Event planning template

Communications Kit Preview







School Website - CalFresh Messaging (Copy & Paste)

Website message and assets to include on your school's website.







Instagram - Carousel & Portrait 2 Instagram posts with images and captions.



Text Messaging / SMS Campaign Text Message campaign content includes 3 text messages, dates to send, and relevant links for families to view on mobile devices.



2 Facebook Posts 2 Facebook posts with images and captions.



Newsletter Article 1Newsletter Article to include in your school's recurring

newsletter with images included.



Twitter Posts 2 Twitter posts with images and captions.



CalFresh Webpage on FJUHSD Food Services site

FJUHSD's own comprehensive web landing page that serves as a helpful online resource to share with students and families. Includes AP contacts.



CalFresh Event Planning Template

1Event Planning Template to download and edit before coordinating events to promote CalFresh.



Cash4Groceries Web Page

Access and share this with students and families as an additional resource: https://fjuhsdfoodservices.org/?page=calfresh







TIMELINE & EVENTS

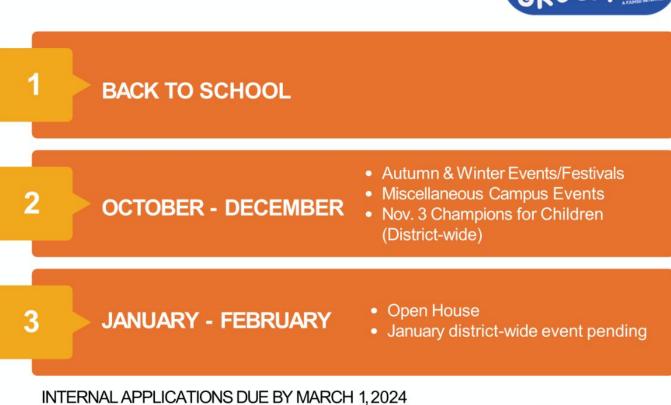






SCHOOL CALFRESH EVENTS

Plan for at least 1-2 events at each school







3 Roles for Each Event

Schools should plan to promote CalFresh at 1-2 events throughout each phase. We want to reach as many eligible students and families to apply for CalFresh benefits. The following 3 roles are necessary for the promotion efforts:

- **1.School CalFresh Ambassador:** Each school should have at least one ambassador assigned to
- lead the campaign efforts for their site (AP and Liaison)
- 2.Event/Booth Host: Daisy (information only)
- 3.Enrollment Partner: Community partner, organization, OC SSA, Application Assisters





GOAL: Each School to Host 1 to 2 Events Between Oct 2023-February 2024.

Timeline:

Events from the school calendars 2023-24

- Aug 8 FJUHSD Back-to-School event (whole district invited)
- Orientation days
 - Aug 2 (Troy)
 - Aug 3 (La Habra)(Troy)
 - Aug 4 (Buena Park)(La Habra)(Troy)(Sunny Hills)
 - Aug 7 (Buena Park)(Sunny Hills)(La Habra)(Sonora)(Troy)
 - Aug 8 (Sunny Hills)(Sonora)
 - Aug 9 (Sonora)
- Aug 14 First day of school
- Aug 24 Troy Back to School Night
- Aug 30 La Habra Back to School Night
- Aug 31 Fullerton Union Back to School Night

CALFRESH CAMPAIGN BEGINS

- Sep 7 Sonora Back to School Night
- Sep 12 Troy College Fair
- Sep 14 Sonora College Fair
- Aug 29 SHHS Back to School Night
- Oct 14 Sonora Corn Festival
- Nov 3: Champions for Children (Fullerton / District-wide event) at elementary school
- Dec 9, 16 Sonora Food Drive (seems tentative)
- Jan 2024: Tentative District-Wide Event
- Jan 17 Sonora Open House
- Jan 10 La Habra Open House
- March National Nutrition Month
- Mar 17-23 Spring Break





GOAL: Each School to Host 1 to 2 Events Between Oct 2023-February 2024

Timeline:

EMAIL SCHEDULE

Wed 9/XX: District-wide CALFRESH Email #1 and Text Campaign 9/13: Team be ready to take questions

10/11: Reminder CALFRESH Email #2 and Text Campaign, customized to each school 11/9: Reminder CALFRESH Email #3 and Text Campaign, customized to each school 12/12: Reminder CALFRESH Email #4 and Text Campaign, customized to each school 1/11: Reminder CALFRESH Email #5 and Text Campaign, customized to each school 2/20: Send Final CALFRESH Reminder Email #6 to all pre-qualified families 03/01/23: Applications Target Date

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Post once per month starting in September Shareable for schools to reshare or post

Suggested Social Media Dates:

10/11: CALFRESH Social Media Post 11/9: CALFRESH Social Media Post 12/12: CALFRESH Social Media Post 1/11: CALFRESH Social Media Post 2/20: Final CALFRESH CALFRESH Social Media Post





CASH FOR GROCERI

Program Impact



Fuel Student Success

Improve nutritional intake in students by allowing their families to buy more food with less worry.



Connecting Families to Resources

Ensure all families know about the benefits they can receive.

School Funding

Schools receive more funding to help improve services for students.

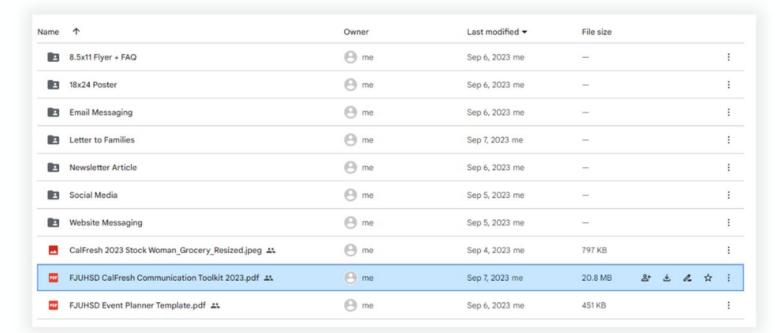




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ALL CONTENTS ARE IN GOOGLE DRIVE FOLDER

1.Download the Communication Toolkit folder to your computer 2.Follow the instructions provided in the Communications Toolkit PDF









Thank You

WHAT'S NEXT

Contact Daisy Munguia <u>dmunguia@strength.org</u>



C Social Services Agency





DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT



MANALEI

THANK YOU!

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Emily Gutierrez eguiterrez@urban.org

Regis Whaley rwhaley@strength.org

PUBLIC BENEFITS THROUGH SCHOOLS CONVENING 2024

