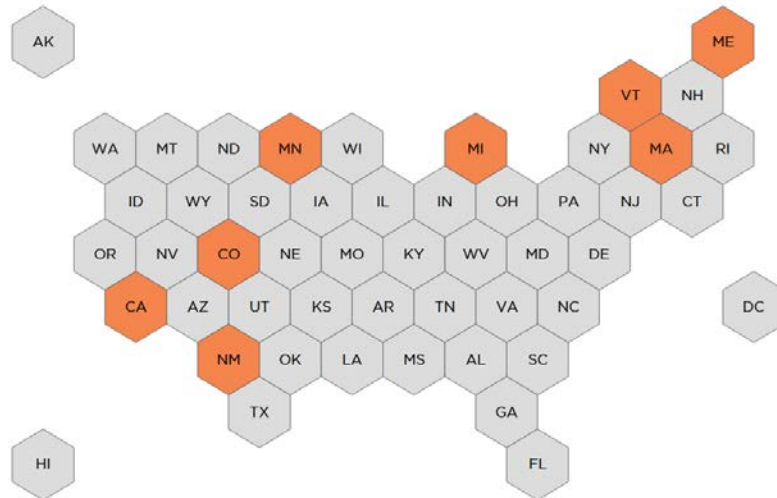


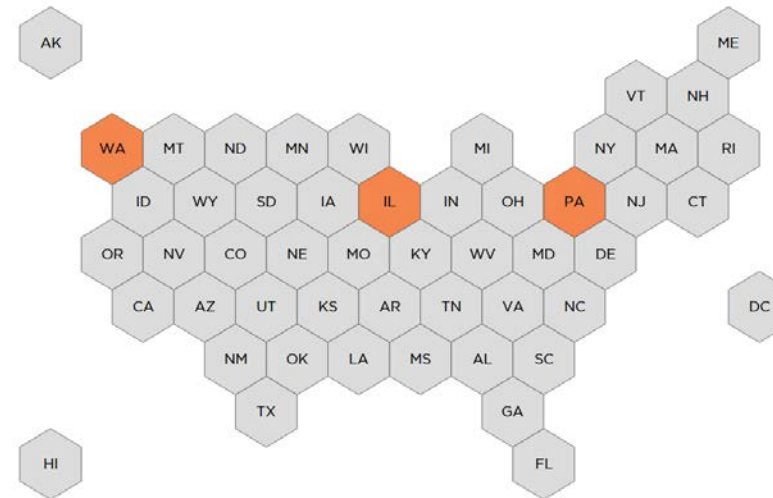
# NO-COST SCHOOL MEALS STATE POLICY LANDSCAPE

## Healthy School Meals for All (HSM4A)

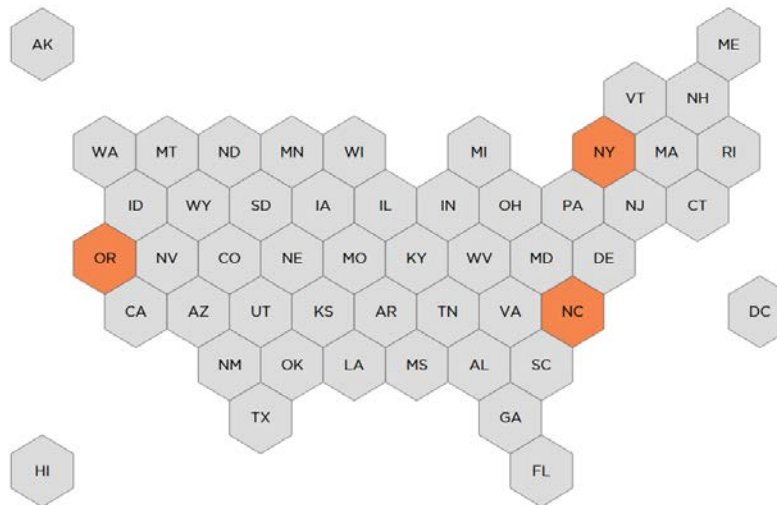
## 8 States Provided HSM4A in SY24-25



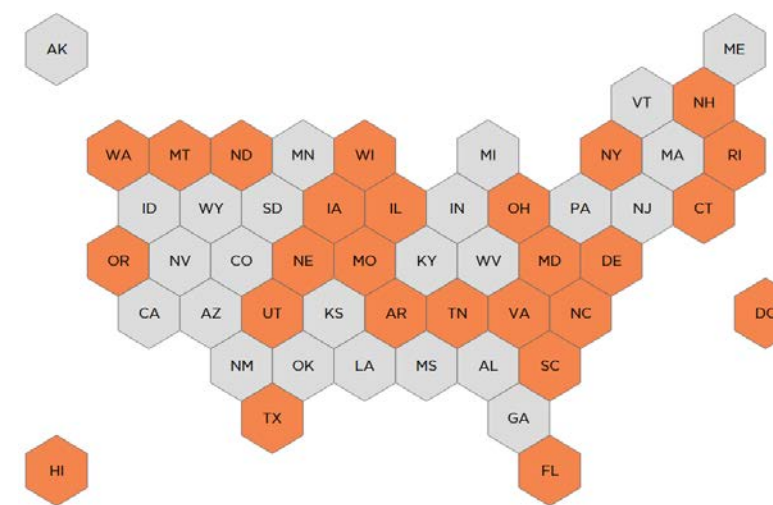
### 3 States Provided Limited HSM4A in SY24-25



### 3 States Provided a CEP Incentive in SY24-25



## 26 States are Considering HSM4A in 2025

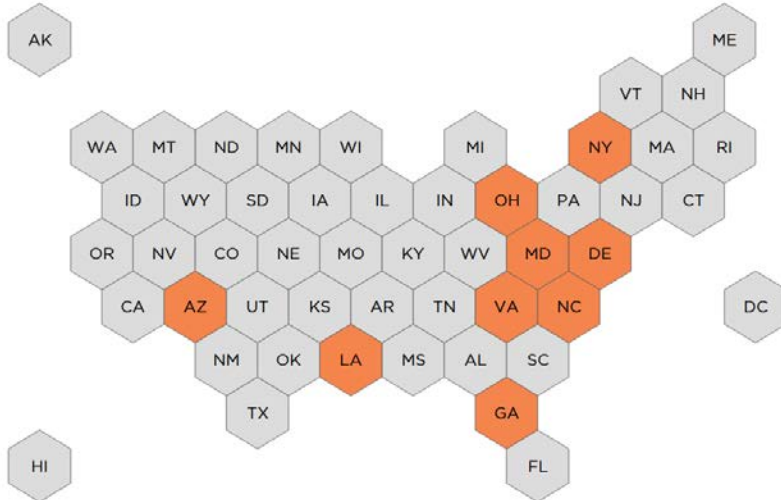


*See notes (p.3) for more detail*

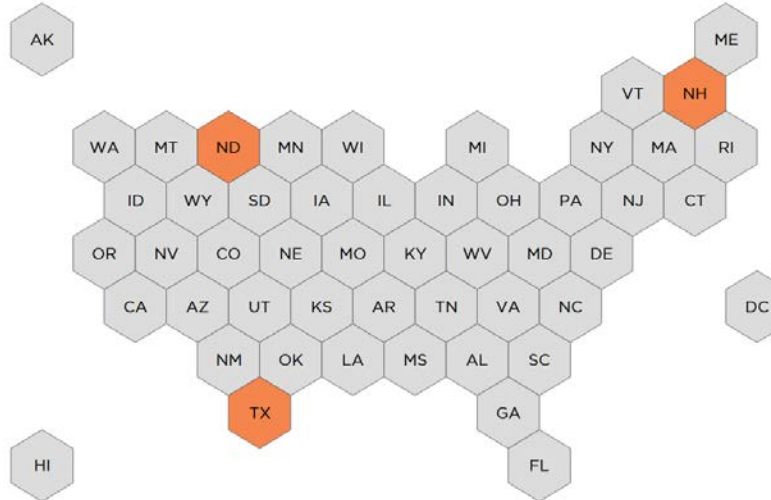
# NO-COST SCHOOL MEALS STATE POLICY LANDSCAPE

## Expanded Individual Eligibility

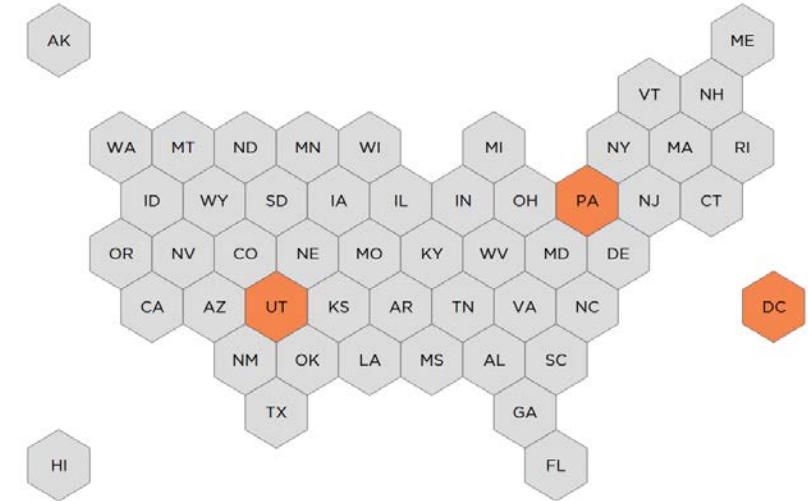
**9** States Provide No-Cost **Breakfast and Lunch** for Students Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals (185% FPL)



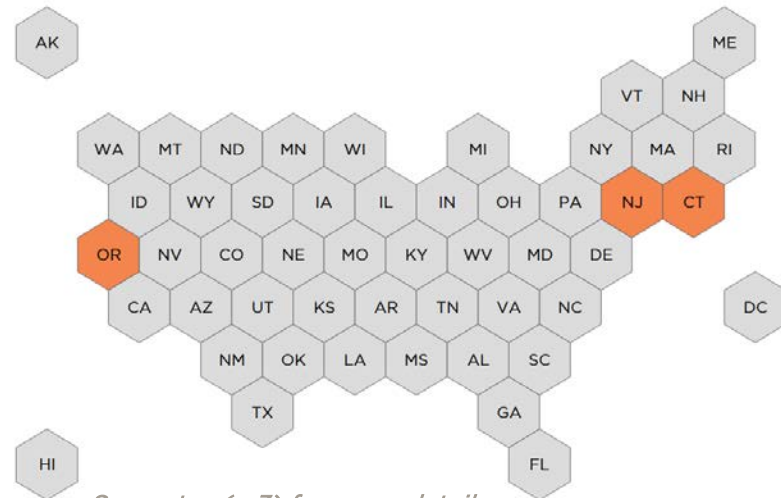
**3** States Provide No-Cost **Breakfast Only** for Students Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals (185% FPL)



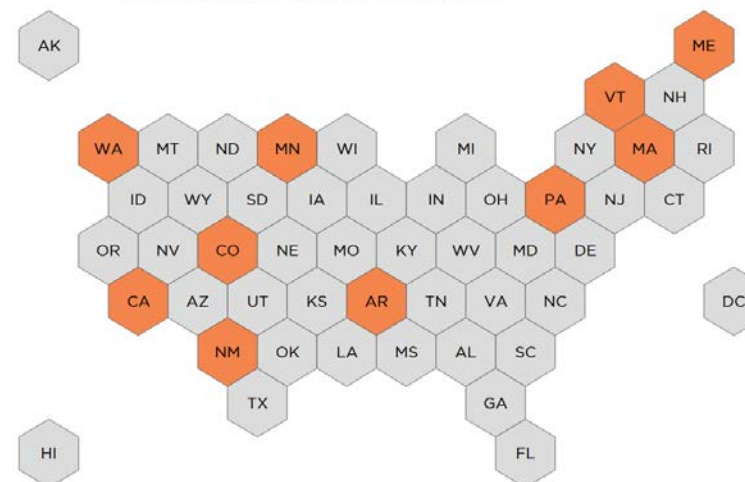
**3** States Provide No-Cost **Lunch Only** for Students Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals (185% FPL)



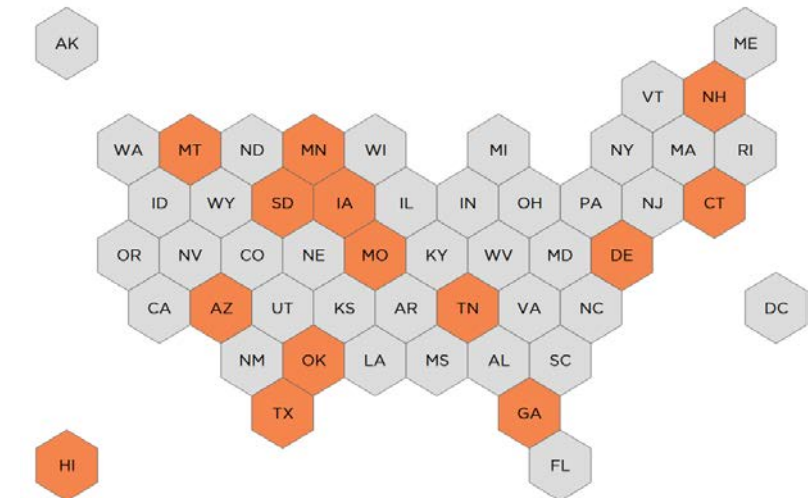
**3** States Provide No-Cost Breakfast & Lunch for Students with Household Income of **>185% FPL**



**10** States with HSM4A **Previously Enacted** Laws to Provide No-Cost Breakfast and Lunch to Reduced-Price Eligible Students



**14** States are **Considering Legislation** to Expand Individual Eligibility for No-Cost Meals in 2025



See notes (p.3) for more detail

# NO-COST SCHOOL MEALS STATE POLICY LANDSCAPE

## Notes

*Last updated: April 15, 2025*

*Visit our [Nutrition & Economic Assistance State Legislation Dashboard](#) for real-time updates on no-cost school meals legislation.*

### HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL (p.1)

#### **Current HSM4A States**

- Seven of the eight states have permanent HSM4A policies, though they require continued appropriations to implement them.
- Michigan has a temporary HSM4A policy that was enacted ([S.B. 0173](#)) and has been sustained ([H.B. 5507](#)) through budget bills and therefore requires further action to either be made permanent or fund beyond SY24-25.

#### **Limited HSM4A States**

- Illinois enacted legislation to create a HSM4A program ([H.B. 2471](#)); however, it is currently unfunded.
- Washington's HSM4A law ([H.B. 1238](#)) applies to students in kindergarten to grade four who attend public schools with  $\geq 30\%$  of students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals.
- Pennsylvania's 2023 appropriations bill ([H.B. 611](#)) provided funding for no-cost breakfast for all public-school students, which was continued via the 2024 appropriations bill ([S.1001](#)).

#### **Considering HSM4A**

- Includes Arkansas, which enacted legislation in February 2025 to provide no-cost breakfast for all public-school students beginning in SY25-26 ([S.B. 59](#)).

#### **HSM4A with Previous ERP**

- Pennsylvania's 2023 appropriations bill ([H.B. 611](#)) also provided funding for school lunch for reduced-price eligible students.
- Arkansas enacted legislation in February 2025 to provide no-cost breakfast too all public-school students starting in SY25-26.

### EXPANDED INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY (p.2)

A student qualifies for reduced-price meals with a household income of 130-185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). When states expand individual eligibility for no-cost meals to reduced-price eligible students (often called eliminating the reduced-price category/co-pay, or ERP), the state reimburses schools for the copay they would ordinarily charge. State can and have also gone beyond the 185% threshold.

#### **Expanded Eligibility 185-300% FPL**

- Three states with expanded individual eligibility for no-cost meals for students with household incomes greater than 185% of the FPL are as follows:
  - CT: 200% FPL
  - NJ: 224% FPL
  - OR: 300% FPL

#### **ERP Lunch**

- Utah enacted ERP lunch in March 2025 and will become effective for SY25-26 ([H.B.100](#)).

#### **Considering Expanded Eligibility**

- This includes bills that expand individual eligibility to reduced-price eligible students (i.e. ERP) and those that expand individual eligibility beyond 185% FPL. Several of these are to continue existing expanded eligibility policies (CT, GA, TX). One proposal is to change an existing HSM4A policy to expanded individual eligibility (MN).