



## SNAP FUELS LEARNING

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) supports families and kids by providing monthly grocery benefits to eligible households to purchase food from stores. **Did you know SNAP also supports schools?**

**SNAP helps schools reach more kids with free meals, saves administration costs and staff time, and boosts nutrition department revenue.**

- Kids that live in households participating in SNAP are directly certified for free school meals, which means there's no need to collect an application from that child, saving staff administrative time and effort. A child only needs to be in a household receiving SNAP at some point in the year to be directly certified for free school meals for the full school year.
- Directly certified students means full federal reimbursement for meals and not needing to track and collect payment from caregivers reducing school meal debt.
- More directly certified students means a higher [Identified Student Percentage \(ISP\)](#), which increases the likelihood of qualifying for and boosts the revenue potential of the [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#). Participating in CEP allows all students to receive free school meals. [Learn more about direct certification and maximizing ISP.](#)



## Did you know SNAP also Expands Access to Free School Meals and Summer EBT/SUN Bucks

Increasing SNAP enrollment also has impacts on benefits children can receive during the summer! In states that participate in SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, students that are participating in SNAP will automatically receive SUN Bucks benefits without having to apply. This automatic connection helps children and families maintain consistent access to food during the summer months when school is not in session, providing year-round support.

Boosting SNAP enrollment also provides benefits for schools and school districts that already operate the [Community Eligibility Provision](#) (CEP), a federal option that allows schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students. Ensuring that all eligible families receive SNAP helps ensure schools/districts remain eligible for CEP and it continues to be financially viable.

As momentum grows for expanding access to free school meals, SNAP is an important component. Boosting SNAP enrollment boosts [Identified Student Percentages](#), allowing more schools/districts to qualify for CEP and/or receive higher federal reimbursement for their meal operations. Receiving higher federal reimbursement, means less of a potential impact on state budgets to cover costs of providing free meals to all students.

## SNAP secures more money for education programs.

- Schools are connected to additional resources, like Title 1 funding and Education Rate (E-Rate) funding for school libraries and internet access, by correctly identifying eligible students for assistance.

## SNAP provides food that helps kids focus in school.

- Children with access to SNAP are [more likely to be in good health](#) meaning less absences and missed school.
- SNAP participation can lead to gains in reading and math skills for elementary school children and [it increases the chance of high school graduation](#).

## SNAP ensures more resources for students, families, and communities.

- SNAP participation helps identify areas eligible for community-wide free afterschool and summer meals programs by increasing the number of students directly certified for free school meals.
- Students and families are connected to additional resources by qualifying for SNAP such as discounted or waived school and sports fees, fee waivers for college applications and SAT/ACT/PSAT exams, and discounted internet and cell phone services.

**Share about SNAP with your school community and support families to access this important food assistance while providing more resources for your school.**

**Find SNAP outreach resources at**

**[bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/snap-schools](https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/snap-schools)**

