

SCHOOL MEALS SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

Proposed Cuts to School Meals Would Worsen Childhood Hunger, Hurt Struggling Families, and Create Unnecessary Burdens for **728** Schools in **OHIO**

House Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington (R-TX) has proposed \$12 billion in cuts to school meals programs for the 2025 budget reconciliation. The proposals would substantially decrease the number of schools eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and make it harder for eligible families to apply for free or reduced-price school meals at non-CEP schools. Combined, these proposals would reduce students' access to school meals and raise families' grocery bills, while imposing unnecessary and burdensome paperwork requirements on schools in **OHIO**.

What Is Community Eligibility?

CEP allows schools serving large numbers of children from families with low incomes to offer school meals at no charge to all students. Rather than relying on school meal applications to determine a school's federal reimbursements, CEP schools are reimbursed based on the share of students from families with low incomes, as determined through a data-matching process that identifies students' participation in other means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Currently, schools can adopt CEP if at least 25 percent of students receive these benefits.

CONGRESS MUST REJECT ANY PROPOSAL TO WEAKEN CEP

Chair Arrington's proposal would increase the CEP eligibility threshold for schools from **25** percent to **60** percent of students identified as receiving benefits. This would cut over 24,000 schools nationwide from participating in CEP and undermine the health and learning of more than **12 million children**.

Community Eligibility Supports Students, Families, and Schools

CEP is a win for students, families, and schools. CEP gives all students access to the nutritious school breakfasts and lunches they need to be well-nourished and ready to learn, while reducing the stigma often present in school cafeterias when schools have to track students' eligibility for free, reduced-price, and paid meals. **When students have access to free meals at school, families have lower grocery bills and more money in their household budgets to help make ends meet.**

CEP has grown in popularity since first becoming available nationwide over a decade ago. In the 2023–2024 school year, one out of every two schools that operated the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participated in CEP. CEP makes school meal operations more efficient and effective: It eliminates the administrative burden associated with school meal applications, strengthens program integrity, and supports school nutrition finances by eliminating school meal debt and increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch, which allows for economies of scale.



IN 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR

1,082 SCHOOLS

in **OHIO** — which represents **31** percent of schools that participate in the school lunch program — adopted CEP, reaching **415,865** children each school day.

The proposed cuts to school meals would **increase hardships** for children and families across **OHIO**:



728

schools in OHIO would no longer be able to provide free school meals through CEP and would have to reinstate meal applications.



237

school districts in OHIO, listed on the reverse page, would be affected.



287,362

OHIO children attend schools that would no longer be able to offer meals at no charge to all students through CEP.¹

Rather than reducing access to school meals, **CONGRESS SHOULD INVEST IN CEP** and reduce barriers to applying for free or reduced-price school meals, so families can afford groceries and children have access to the nutritious meals they need to thrive in school and beyond.

The following table identifies the school districts in **OHIO**, and the number of schools and children within each district that would lose access to CEP if Congress increases the eligibility threshold to 60 percent of students identified as receiving benefits.

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
A+ ARTS ACADEMY	3	594
A+ CHILDREN'S ACADEMY	1	137
ACADEMY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE	1	112
AKROS MIDDLE SCHOOL	1	125
ALLIANCE CITY SD	6	3033
ARLINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	1	84
ASHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY ACADEMY	1	85
BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY	1	587
BENTON CARROLL SALEM	1	26
BLACK RIVER CAREER PREP HIGH SCHOOL	1	177
BOWLING GREEN	1	357
BRICE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	1	298
BRIDGES COMMUNITY ACADEMY	1	76
BUCKEYE COMMUNITY SCHOOL-MANSFIELD	2	420
BUCKEYE COMMUNITY SCHOOL-MARION	1	234
CAMBRIDGE CITY SD	3	1388
CAMPBELL CITY SD	1	38
CANTON CITY SD	19	8671
CANTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1191
CAPITAL CITY CAREER PREP HIGH SCHOOL	1	178
CCMT CATHOLIC SCHOOL	2	286
CESAR CHAVEZ COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1	302
CHILLICOTHE CITY SD	6	2591
CINCINNATI COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY	1	902
CIRCLEVILLE CITY SD	2	2021

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
CITIZENS ACADEMY SOUTHEAST	1	467
CITIZENS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY EAST	1	627
CLEARVIEW LOCAL SD	3	1705
CLEVELAND ACADEMY FOR SCHOLARSHIP TECHNOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP	3	438
CLEVELAND COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY	1	263
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS	11	5130
CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT	85	34923
CLIFF PARK HIGH SCHOOL	1	193
COLUMBIANA COUNTY BOARD OF DD	1	40
COLUMBIANA COUNTY ESC	1	26
COLUMBUS ARTS & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY	1	453
COLUMBUS HUMANITIES, ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY	1	604
COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	110	44252
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS LORAIN COMMUNITY	1	147
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS MADISON COMMUNITY	1	214
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS STOCKYARD	1	201
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS WESTPARK COMMUNITY	1	226
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: LORAIN COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL	1	98
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: OLD BROOKLYN COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY	1	271
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: PURITAS COMMUNITY MIDDLE	1	167
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: STOCKYARD COMMUNITY MIDDLE	1	47
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: WESTPARK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL	1	114
COSHOCTON CITY SD	3	1670
CRESTLINE EX VILL SD	1	581

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(continued)

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
CROOKSVILLE EX VILL SD	2	1032
DAWSON-BRYANT LOCAL SD	2	1205
DAYTON BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL	1	64
DAYTON CITY SD	1	454
DAYTON SMART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	130
DECA PREP, INC.	2	865
DOHN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	6	1673
EAST CLEVELAND	6	1532
EAST LIVERPOOL	6	2000
EASTERN LOCAL SD	4	814
ELEVATED EXCELLENCE ACADEMY	2	87
ESC OF LAKE ERIE WEST	1	29
ESC OF NORTHEAST OHIO	6	397
EUCLID CITY SD	7	5086
EUCLID PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1	404
FAIRBORN CITY SCHOOLS	3	2679
FLEX HIGH SCHOOL	1	362
FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY OF CENTRAL COLUMBUS	1	131
FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY OF NORTHERN COLUMBUS	1	662
FOCUS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL	3	677
FOSTORIA CITY SD	2	1857
FOXFIRE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS	1	430
FRANKLINTON HIGH SCHOOL	1	152
FREMONT CITY SD	4	1753

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
GALLIA COUNTY	8	2101
GARFIELD HEIGHTS	5	3798
GEC SCHOOL	1	169
GEM CITY CAREER PREP HIGH SCHOOL	1	127
GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY	1	729
GROVEPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	567
HAMILTON CITY SD	12	9271
HEIR FORCE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	252
HERITAGE CHRISTIAN	1	261
HOLY FAMILY	1	206
HORIZON SCIENCE ACAD CLEVELAND	1	271
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL	1	289
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY-CLEVELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL	1	205
HUBER HEIGHTS PREPARATORY ACADEMY	1	44
HUNTINGTON LOCAL SD	1	1012
IDEA GREATER CINCINNATI, INC	2	460
IMAGINE COLUMBUS PRIMARY ACADEMY	1	210
INNOVATION ACADEMY WEST	1	164
IRONTON CITY SD	3	1348
KETTERING CITY SD	2	282
KINGS LOCAL SD	2	532
KIPP JOURNEY ACADEMY	1	1956
L. HOLLINGWORTH SCHOOL FOR TALENTED AND GIFTED	1	272
LABRAE LOCAL SD	1	275

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(continued)

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LAKE ERIE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1	298
LAKE ERIE INTERNATIONAL HS	1	246
LAKESHORE INTERGENERATIONAL SCHOOL	1	127
LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF DD	1	47
LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL	1	155
LISBON EX VILL SD	1	450
LOGAN-HOCKING LOCAL SD	7	3328
LORAIN CITY SD	15	5679
LORAIN PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL	1	42
MAHONING COUNTY BOARD OF DD	1	62
MAHONING EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER	1	36
MANCHESTER LOCAL SD	2	803
MAPLE HEIGHTS	5	3038
MARION CITY SD	8	4502
MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL	2	225
MASON RUN HIGH SCHOOL	1	132
MASSILLON CITY SD	6	3994
MAYSVILLE LOCAL SD	3	1830
MEIGS COUNTY BOARD OF DD	1	49
MEIGS LOCAL SD	3	1589
MIAMI VALLEY ACADEMY	1	107
MIDDLETOWN CITY SD	10	5590
MIDNIMO CROSS CULTURAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	1	145
MILFORD EX VILL SD	5	1747

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY	1	438
MONTGOMERY PREPARATORY ACADEMY	1	243
MORGAN LOCAL SD	2	569
MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOLS	2	617
MT HEALTHY	5	2755
MT. HEALTHY PREPARATORY AND FITNESS ACADEMY	1	185
MUSKINGUM COUNTY BOARD OF DD	1	72
NELSONVILLE-YORK CITY SD	2	1074
NEW BOSTON	3	379
NEW LEXINGTON	4	1646
NEW MIAMI	2	690
NEWCOMERSTOWN EX VILL SD	1	133
NILES CITY SD	2	907
NILES PREPARATORY ACADEMY	1	95
NOBLE ACADEMY-CLEVELAND	1	350
NORTH COLLEGE HILL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1755
NORTH DAYTON SCHOOL OF DISCOVERY	1	541
NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL	1	226
NORTH WOODS CAREER PREP HIGH SCHOOL	1	98
NORTHLAND PREPARATORY AND FITNESS ACADEMY	1	189
NORTHRIDGE LOCAL SD	3	1449
NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	3237
NORTHWEST LOCAL SD	1	594
OAK HILL UNION LOCAL	2	1249

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(continued)

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OHIO COLLEGIATE ACADEMY	1	298
OHIO CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY	1	68
ORCHARD PARK ACADEMY	1	251
ORION ACADEMY	1	463
OUR LADY OF PEACE	1	207
PAINESVILLE CITY	5	2586
PAR EXCELLENCE ACADEMY	1	191
PERFORMANCE ACADEMY EASTLAND	1	311
PINNACLE ACADEMY	1	678
PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	23
PORTSMOUTH CITY SD	3	1769
PRINCETON CITY SD	3	785
PURITAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	194
PYMATUNING VALLEY	1	429
QUEEN CITY CAREER PREP HIGH SCHOOL	1	79
RAMAH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	1	190
RAVENNA CITY SD	5	1998
RICHARD ALLEN ACADEMY	1	131
RICHARD ALLEN PREPARATORY	1	363
RIPLEY-UNION-LEWIS-HUNTINGTON LOCAL SD	3	748
RISE & SHINE ACADEMY	1	125
RIVER GATE HIGH SCHOOL	1	190
ROAD TO SUCCESS ACADEMY	1	93
ROCK HILL	3	1360

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
ROLLING HILLS	5	1481
SALEM CITY SD	3	999
SANDUSKY CITY SD	5	3187
SCIOTO COUNTY CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER	1	458
SCIOTO VALLEY	2	1193
SEBRING LOCAL SD	2	384
SHEFFIELD ACADEMY	1	66
SHEPHERD OF ALL GOD'S CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER/PRESCHOOL	1	64
SKYWAY CAREER PREP HIGH SCHOOL	1	227
SOUTH POINT	4	1365
SOUTHERN CLEVELAND DROP BACK IN	1	25
SOUTHERN LOCAL SD	4	1653
SPRINGFIELD CITY SD	16	7886
ST ALBERT THE GREAT	4	963
ST ALOYSIUS EDUCATIONAL CENTER	2	154
ST FRANCIS DESALES	1	219
ST LAWRENCE	1	382
ST PETER	1	114
STARK HIGH SCHOOL	1	174
STEBENVILLE CITY SD	6	2783
STRUTHERS CITY SD	1	648
SULLIVANT AVENUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	277
SUMMIT ACADEMY - TOLEDO	1	116
SUMMIT ACADEMY COMMUNITY	1	50

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SUMMIT ACADEMY DAYTON	1	80
SUMMIT ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL YOUNGSTOWN	1	182
SUMMIT ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL COLUMBUS	1	41
SUMMIT ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL-AKRON	1	62
SUMMIT ACADEMY SCHOOL - LORAIN	1	92
SUMMIT ACADEMY SECONDARY - AKRON	1	60
SUMMIT ACADEMY SECONDARY - CANTON	1	81
SUMMIT ACADEMY SECONDARY SCHOOL - MIDDLETOWN	1	116
SUMMIT ACADEMY SECONDARY SCHOOL-PARMA	1	169
SUMMIT ACADEMY TRANSITION HIGH SCHOOL -DAYTON	1	137
SUMMIT ACADEMY TRANSITION HIGH SCHOOL-CINCINNATI	1	67
SUMMIT ACADEMY TRANSITION HIGH SCHOOL-COLUMBUS	1	59
SUMMIT ACADEMY-CANTON	1	113
SUMMIT ACADEMY-XENIA	1	202
SYMMES VALLEY	2	793
THE CHILDRENS HOME-DISTRICT	1	160
TOLEDO PREPARATORY AND FITNESS ACADEMY	1	205
TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	2937
TOOBA ACADEMY	1	97
TRI-COUNTY CAREER CENTER	1	460
TRIMBLE LOCAL SD	3	811
TROTWOOD-MADISON CITY SCHOOLS	5	2617

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
VILLAGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL WILLARD	1	530
VILLAGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL: WOODLAND HILLS CAMPUS	1	668
VINTON COUNTY LOCAL	5	1869
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS	4	1846
WASHINGTON CO BD OF DD	1	75
WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY	1	180
WASHINGTON-NILE LOCAL SD	3	1355
WAVERLY CITY SD	3	1234
WELLSTON CITY SCHOOLS	4	1345
WELLSVILLE LOCAL SD	3	735
WESTERN LOCAL SD	3	617
WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	1	281
WHITEHALL CITY SD	6	3255
WHITEHALL PREPARATORY AND FITNESS ACADEMY	1	312
WINDHAM EX VILL SD	3	467
WINTERFIELD VENTURE ACADEMY	1	496
XENIA COMMUNITY	6	2712
YESHIVA DERECH HATORAH	2	676
YOUTHBUILD COLUMBUS COMMUNITY	1	253
ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	159
ZENITH ACADEMY	1	460
ZENITH ACADEMY WEST	1	140