

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 **707** Schools in **OREGON**

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 **OREGON**.

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

740 SCHOOLS

in **OREGON** — which represents **60** percent of schools that participate in the school lunch program — adopted CEP, reaching **293,812** children each school day.

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



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



114 school districts in **OREGON**, listed on the reverse page, would be affected.



285,272 **OREGON** 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 **OREGON**, 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
ALSEA SD 7J	1	217
ANNEX SD 29	1	81
ARLINGTON SD	1	152
BAKER SD 5J	8	1728
BANDON SD 54	3	651
BEAVERTON SD 48J	15	8187
BEND/LAPINE SD	10	3258
BETHEL SD 52	11	5036
BROOKINGS-HARBOR SD 17	2	946
BUTTE FALLS SD 91	1	176
CASCADE SD 005	3	895
CENTENNIAL SD 28J	10	5101
CENTRAL CURRY SD 1	2	418
CENTRAL LINN SD 552	1	280
CENTRAL POINT SD	9	3842
CENTRAL SD 13J	5	3169
CHEMAWA INDIAN SCHOOL	1	145
COMMUNITY TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL	1	72
COOS BAY SD 009	9	1830
COQUILLE SD	7	1487
CORVALLIS SD 509J	2	782
CRESWELL SD 40	1	505
CROOK CO SD	5	1621
CULVER SD	3	662
DALLAS SD	5	1218
DAVID DOUGLAS SD 40	14	8592
DAYS CREEK SD 15	1	231
DAYTON SD 008	2	656
DAYVILLE SD 16J	1	64

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
EAGLE CHARTER	1	149
EAGLE POINT SD	11	4134
EAGLE RIDGE HIGH	1	131
ELGIN SD 23	2	418
EUGENE SD 4J	19	7100
FALLS CITY SD 57	2	185
FOREST GROVE SD 15	10	3768
FOUR RIVERS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	356
GERVAIS SD	4	954
GLENDALE SD 77	2	302
GRANTS PASS SD	11	5268
GREATER ALBANY SD 8J	18	7315
GRESHAM-BARLOW SD 10J	12	7139
HARRISBURG SD	2	537
HERMISTON SD 8	9	5431
HILLSBORO SD 1J	14	6382
HOOD RIVER SD	4	1131
HUNTINGTON SD	1	82
JEFFERSON CO SD 509	8	2642
JEFFERSON SD 14J	2	514
KIDS UNLIMITED OF OREGON	2	567
KLAMATH CO SD	21	6839
KLAMATH FALLS SD	7	2481
LAGRANDE SD	5	2034
LEBANON COMMUNITY SD 9	8	3718
LINCOLN CO SD	14	4659
LOWELL SD 71	2	371
MAPLETON SD 32	2	164
MCKENZIE SD 68	1	194

The following table identifies the school districts in **OREGON**, 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.

(continued)

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
MCMINNVILLE SD 40	7	3728
MEDFORD SD 549	20	11200
MILTON-FREEWATER SD 7	4	1613
MONUMENT SD 8	1	64
MORROW CO SD	9	2464
MT. SCOTT LEARNING CENTER	1	134
MULTNOMAH ESD	4	137
MYRTLE POINT SD 41	2	549
NESTUCCA VALLEY SD 101J	2	512
NETWORK CHARTER SCHOOL	1	115
NEWBERG SD 29J	1	134
NORTH BEND SD 13	4	2136
NORTH CLACKAMAS SD 12	12	5420
NORTH DOUGLAS SD 22	2	358
NORTH LAKE SD 14	1	4223
NORTH SANTIAM SD 29	3	1110
NORTH WASCO CO. SD	6	2496
OAKLAND SD	1	231
OAKRIDGE SD 76	2	490
OREGON CITY SD 62	2	167
PARKROSE SD 3	6	2868
PENDLETON SD 16	6	2920
PHOENIX-TALENT SD	6	2200
PILOT ROCK SD 2	2	296
PORT ORFORD-LANGLOIS SD	2	227
PORTLAND SD	48	18494
PROSPECT SD 59	1	243
REDMOND SD 2J	8	2964

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
REEDSPORT SD 105	2	588
REYNOLDS SD 7	13	5467
RIDDLE SD 70	2	366
ROGUE RIVER SD 35	3	881
ROSEBURG SD 4	10	4953
SALEM/KEIZER SD 24J	71	42861
SANTIAM CANYON SD 129	2	566
SERENDIPITY CENTER	1	66
SHERIDAN SD 48J	2	983
SIUSLAW SD 97J	3	1205
SOUTH LANE SD 45J	7	2394
SOUTH UMPQUA SD 19	5	1419
SOUTH WASCO CO SD	2	230
SPRINGFIELD SD 19	20	8220
ST. ANDREW NATIVITY SCHOOL	1	76
ST. HELENS SD 502	5	1661
STANFIELD SD 61	2	583
SUTHERLIN SD 130	4	1391
SWEET HOME SD 55	6	2195
THREE RIVERS SD	15	2914
TILLAMOOK SD	5	1471
UMATILLA SD 6	3	1395
UNION SD 5	1	220
VALE SD 84	5	972
WILLAMINA SD 30J	2	874
WINSTON-DILLARD SD 116	6	1424
WOODBURN SD 103	11	5135
YONCALLA SD 32	2	302