

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 **666** Schools in **PENNSYLVANIA**

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 **PENNSYLVANIA**.

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.

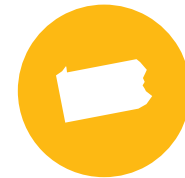
CONGRESS MUST REJECT ANY PROPOSAL TO WEAKEN CEP

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

1,712 SCHOOLS

in **PENNSYLVANIA** — which represents **54** percent of schools that participate in the school lunch program — adopted CEP, reaching **801,618** children each school day.

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



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



205 school districts in **PENNSYLVANIA**, listed on the reverse page, would be affected.



320,262 **PENNSYLVANIA** 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 **PENNSYLVANIA**, 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
ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	897
AMBRIDGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	2230
ANTIETAM SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1202
APOLLO-RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1117
ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	4822
ATHENS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2045
AUSTIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	174
BADEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	581
BELLE VERNON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2365
BENSALEM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	4746
BENTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	626
BENTWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1044
BERMUDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1810
BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	2448
BETHLEHEM-CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1011
BLACKLICK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	612
BLOOMSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	1591
BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1027
BRADFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2324
BRISTOL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2396
BROOKVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1361
BUXMONT ACADEMY	4	80
CALIFORNIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	982
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	858
CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1260

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
CARMICHAELS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	965
CENTRAL DAUPHIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	15	8607
CENTRAL FULTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	916
CENTRAL GREENE SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	779
CHAMBERSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	15	4311
CHAMPION CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	2	102
CHARLEROI SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1044
CHESTER COUNTY IU 24	6	2893
CLARION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	357
CLARION-LIMESTONE AREA SD	2	760
COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	5326
COLLEGIUM CHARTER SCHOOL	5	2670
COMMODORE PERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	409
CONEMAUGH VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	303
CONNEAUT SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	1743
CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	3992
CORRY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1884
COUDERSPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	718
CRAWFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	3084
CTC OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY	1	744
CURWENSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	993
DAUPHIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL	1	1098
DERRY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1811
DUBOIS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	3304
DUNMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1530

The following table identifies the school districts in **PENNSYLVANIA**, 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
EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	6422
EASTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	8463
EDUCATION CENTER AT WATSON INSTITUTE DBA WATSON INSTITUTE ED CTR	2	426
ELK LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1188
ELLWOOD CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1528
ENVIRONMENTAL CS AT FRICK PARK...AN IMAGINE SCHOOL	2	437
EVERETT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	439
FANNETT-METAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	398
FOREST CITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	759
FOREST HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1786
FORT LEOEUF SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	851
FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	861
FRANKLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1745
FRANKLIN TOWNE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL	1	1246
GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	3402
GENERAL MCLANE SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2089
GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1534
GLENDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	657
GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	4169
GREATER LATROBE SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1729
GREENSBURG SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1949
GREENVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1245
HARMONY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	260
HEMPFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	11	7096

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
HOMER-CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	814
HOPE FOR HYNDMAN CHARTER SCHOOL	1	158
HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1175
INDEPENDENCE CS	1	806
INTERBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2745
JAMESTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	382
JEFFERSON-MORGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	792
JIM THORPE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1931
JOHNSONBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	538
JOHNSTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	1	162
KANE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	983
KARNS CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1238
KEYSTONE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	3452
KEYSTONE OAKS SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	1857
KEYSTONE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	829
KISKI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1486
LAUREL HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	2858
LEECHBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	704
LEHIGH CAREER & TECHNICAL INST	1	2202
LEHIGH VALLEY ACADEMY CS	1	1836
LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	2619
LENAPE AVTS	1	505
LIGONIER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	683
LOGOS ACADEMY INC	1	206

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(continued)

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LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1581
MARION CENTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1205
MAST COMMUNITY CS	1	1491
MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1030
MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	797
MID VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1953
MIDD-WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1938
MIDLAND INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	117
MIFFLINBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1756
MILTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1920
MINERSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1034
MOHAWK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1463
MONITEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1182
MONROE CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	1	1059
MONTGOMERY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	946
MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT 23	3	236
MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1186
MOON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	203
MOSHANNON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	777
MOUNT UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1170
MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	965
MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	4138
NORTH CLARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	603
NORTH STAR SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	994
NORTHEAST BRADFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	423
NORTHERN CAMBRIA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	840
NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1599

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
NORTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1995
NORTHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1017
NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL (FRMLY ST CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL)	1	185
NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1251
OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	2120
OSWAYO VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	199
OTTO-ELDRED SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	538
OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	3449
PENNCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	2571
PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1588
PEQUEA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1322
PHILIPSBURG-OSCEOLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1603
PITTSTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	3163
PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	4177
POCONO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	7543
PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	798
POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	3377
PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1913
PURCHASE LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	767
QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	2398
RED LION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	191
REDBANK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1082
REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	913
RIDGWAY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	778
RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2518
RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT (FMLY BLAIRSVILLE-SALTSBURG SD)	4	1446

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(continued)

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RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1551
RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	171
ROCKWOOD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	624
SAINT MARYS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1845
SALISBURY-ELK LICK SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	261
SAYRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	920
SHADE-CENTRAL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	365
SHANKSVILLE-STONYCREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	280
SHENANGO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	992
SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	2717
SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	763
SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1245
SOUTHEASTERN GREENE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	626
SOUTHERN HUNTINGDON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1079
SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	824
ST JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL	1	250
ST. JAMES SCHOOL	1	207
SUGAR VALLEY RURAL CHARTER SCHOOL	1	474
SULLIVAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	611
SUSQUEHANNA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	789
TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2094
THREE RIVERS VILLAGE SCHOOL	1	41
TIDIOUTE COMMUNITY CS	1	300
TITUSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	1897
TOWANDA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	1565
TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	823
TROY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1406

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
TUNKHANNOCK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1183
TUSCARORA SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	2645
TUSSEY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	953
UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	753
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	550
VALLEY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	798
WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	2801
WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	3862
WARRIOR RUN SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1432
WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1267
WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	936
WEST GREENE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	674
WEST MIFFLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2429
WEST PERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	2140
WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	3675
WEST SIDE AVTS	1	478
WESTERN BEAVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	744
WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	1778
WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY CS	1	321
WESTMONT HILLTOP SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1469
WHITEHALL-COPLAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	4218
WILLIAMS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	943
WINDBER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1214
WYALUSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1217
WYOMING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	2067
YESHIVA ACHEI TMIMIM SCHOOLS	1	115
YOUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	1780