

# 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 **1,711** Schools in **TEXAS**

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 **TEXAS**.

### 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

**4,638** SCHOOLS

in **TEXAS** — which represents **55** percent of schools that participate in the school lunch program — adopted CEP, reaching **2,600,579** children each school day.

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



**1,711**

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



**281**

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



**974,497**

**TEXAS** children attend schools that would no longer be able to offer meals at no charge to all students through CEP.<sup>1</sup>

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 **TEXAS**, 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
ABERNATHY ISD	3	834
ABILENE ISD	22	14881
ACADEMY OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	3	1138
AGUA DULCE ISD	2	397
ANAHUAC ISD	3	1511
ANGLETON ISD	7	3322
ANSON ISD	2	384
ARANSAS COUNTY ISD	4	3011
ASPERMONT ISD	2	206
ATLANTA ISD	4	1879
AUSTIN ISD	31	21548
AVERY ISD	2	329
BAIRD ISD	2	313
BALLINGER ISD	3	816
BANQUETE ISD	2	582
BARTLETT ISD	1	452
BASTROP ISD	16	12566
BELTON ISD	6	3018
BIG SPRING ISD	1	1065
BISHOP CONS ISD	5	1428
BLANKET ISD	1	144
BLOOMING GROVE ISD	3	929
BONHAM ISD	5	1996
BOVINA ISD	3	438
BOWIE ISD	4	1631

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
BRACKETT ISD	3	501
BRADY ISD	3	943
BRAZOSPORT ISD	17	11459
BRIDGEPORT ISD	1	561
BROOKESMITH ISD	1	152
BRYAN ISD	24	15590
BRYSON ISD	1	258
BUFFALO ISD	3	1052
BURNET CONS ISD	3	1548
BURTON ISD	2	531
BYNUM ISD	1	195
CALHOUN CO ISD	7	3519
CAMERON ISD	4	1551
CANUTILLO ISD	10	6076
CEDAR HILL ISD	6	3205
CENTER POINT ISD	3	561
CENTRAL ISD	3	1477
CHISUM ISD	3	1151
CISCO ISD	3	818
CITY VIEW ISD	2	1112
COLLINSVILLE ISD	2	530
COLMESNEIL ISD	2	435
COLORADO ISD	3	934
COMANCHE ISD	4	1353
COMFORT ISD	1	498

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(continued)

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
COMO-PICKTON ISD	1	754
COOPER ISD	3	880
CORRIGAN-CAMDEN ISD	3	841
CRANFILLS GAP ISD	1	129
CROCKETT CO CONS ISD	3	689
CROSS PLAINS ISD	2	376
CROSS ROADS ISD	3	551
CROWELL ISD	1	197
CUERO ISD	4	1932
CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD	36	34303
DALLAS ISD	229	138876
DAWSON ISD	2	550
DELL CITY ISD	1	70
DENISON ISD	7	3545
DESOTO ISD	1	0
DETROIT ISD	3	521
DEW ISD	1	138
DEWEYVILLE ISD	2	554
DIBOLL ISD	4	1652
DIME BOX ISD	1	166
DRISCOLL ISD	1	276
EAST CENTRAL ISD	11	10689
EAST CHAMBERS ISD	4	1563
EAST FORT WORTH MONTESSORI ACADEMY	1	170

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
EASTLAND ISD	3	1040
ECTOR COUNTY ISD	22	22051
ECTOR ISD	2	228
EDEN CONS ISD	1	208
EDNA ISD	6	1552
EL PASO EDUCATION INITIATIVE, INC. (THE) BURNHAM WOOD	2	648
EL PASO EDUCATION INITIATIVE, INC. (THE) VISTA DEL FUTURO	1	324
EL PASO ISD	28	16609
EL PASO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	3	598
ENNIS ISD	11	6160
ETOILE ACADEMY, INC.	1	519
EUSTACE ISD	4	1692
EVANT ISD	2	197
EVOLUTION ACADEMY CHARTER	1	256
FAIRFIELD ISD	4	1686
FERRIS ISD	5	2722
FLORENCE ISD	3	1174
FORESTBURG ISD	1	188
FORT STOCKTON ISD	6	2183
FORT WORTH ISD	130	72394
FRENSHIP ISD	3	1797
FRIONA ISD	4	1046
FRUITVALE ISD	2	185
GARLAND ISD	18	20475

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GARNER ISD	1	319
GATESVILLE ISD	1	299
GHOLSON ISD	1	266
GIDDINGS ISD	4	1904
GOLIAD ISD	1	611
GONZALES ISD	2	1322
GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PARISH	1	203
GORDON ISD	1	242
GRAFORD ISD	1	327
GRAHAM ISD	1	1040
GRANBURY ISD	10	7518
GRAND SALINE ISD	4	1196
GRANDFALLS-ROYALTY ISD	1	128
GRANGER ISD	1	546
GRAPE CREEK ISD	4	1163
GRAPELAND ISD	1	152
GREGORY-PORTLAND ISD	6	4951
GUSTINE ISD	1	137
HAMILTON ISD	3	837
HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	2652
HARROLD ISD	1	139
HARTS BLUFF ISD	3	512
HAWKINS ISD	2	766
HAWLEY ISD	4	809

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
HAYS CONS ISD	5	3571
HENDERSON ISD	5	3360
HEREFORD ISD	7	3871
HILLSBORO ISD	5	1918
HONDO ISD	4	1765
HUBBARD ISD-HUBBARD	2	432
HUFFMAN ISD	4	3682
HUGHES SPRINGS ISD	2	813
HUNTINGTON ISD	2	720
INGRAM ISD	3	1206
IRAAN-SHEFFIELD ISD	3	335
IREDELL ISD	1	143
IRVING ISD	38	31469
ITASCA ISD	3	639
JOAQUIN ISD	1	684
JUDSON ISD	4	4884
KATY ISD	28	29046
KAUFMAN ISD	7	4316
KEENE ISD	3	1052
KELTON ISD	1	149
KENNARD ISD	1	259
KILGORE ISD	6	3824
KILLEEN ISD	26	27965
KRESS ISD	2	275

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LA GLORIA ISD	1	108
LA GRANGE ISD	3	1843
LA POYNOR ISD	2	309
LAMAR CONSOLIDATED ISD	29	19339
LEON ISD	2	749
LIBERTY ISD	4	2375
LINGLEVILLE ISD	1	284
LITTLE CYPRESS MAURICEVILLE CISD	6	3301
LLANO ISD	4	1925
LOCKHART ISD	9	6508
LOOP ISD	1	154
LORAIN ISD	1	140
LUBBOCK-COOPER ISD	3	1540
MADISONVILLE CONS ISD	4	2411
MALAKOFF ISD	6	1446
MANARA ACADEMY	3	533
MANOR ISD	9	5762
MARBLE FALLS ISD	7	4011
MARFA ISD	1	233
MART ISD	2	589
MAY ISD	2	253
MCALLEN ISD	30	19972
MCCAMEY ISD	3	499
MCDADE ISD	2	376

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
MCGREGOR ISD	4	1517
MERIDIAN ISD	2	344
MERKEL ISD	2	801
MIDWAY ISD-HENRIETTA	1	130
MILANO ISD	2	239
MILLER GROVE ISD	1	311
MINEOLA ISD	4	1628
MINERAL WELLS ISD	5	3317
MORGAN MILL ISD	1	115
MOTLEY COUNTY ISD	1	167
MOULTON ISD	2	277
MOUNT ENTERPRISE ISD	2	493
MOUNT VERNON ISD	3	1560
MUNDAY CISD	2	406
NEW DEAL ISD	3	749
NEW FRONTIERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INC	2	175
NEWCASTLE ISD	1	222
NEWMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARLINGTON	2	852
NORDHEIM ISD	1	132
NORTH EAST ISD	47	33850
NORTH HOPKINS ISD	2	523
NORTH ZULCH ISD	1	362
NORTHSIDE ISD-SAN ANTONIO	76	51636
O'DONNELL ISD	1	286

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ODEM-EDROY ISD	4	902
OGLESBY ISD	1	207
OLFEN ISD	1	131
OVERTON ISD	2	513
PALO PINTO ISD	1	97
PECOS-BARSTOW-TOYAH ISD	5	2808
PETROLIA ISD	1	274
PEWITT CONS ISD	3	829
PFLUGERVILLE ISD	7	3833
PINE TREE ISD	6	4550
PLAINS ISD	3	426
POOLVILLE ISD	3	727
PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL	18	2289
QUEEN CITY ISD	3	967
QUITMAN ISD	3	1298
RAINS ISD	4	1734
RAPOPORT ACADEMY	3	839
RICARDO ISD	2	662
RICE ISD	3	1052
RICHLAND SPRINGS ISD	1	135
RIVERCREST ISD	3	700
RIVIERA ISD	3	475
ROBERT LEE ISD	1	269
ROCHELLE ISD	1	189

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
ROCKDALE ISD	4	1515
ROSEBUD-LOTT ISD	3	762
ROYSE CITY ISD	1	328
RUSK ISD	5	2055
S AND S CISD	3	938
SABINAL ISD	3	428
SAN MARCOS CONS ISD	11	8405
SCHULENBURG ISD	2	671
SCURRY-ROSSER ISD	3	1074
SEGUIN ISD	1	2012
SEYMOUR ISD	2	637
SHARYLAND ISD	8	5879
SHELBYVILLE ISD	1	894
SHERMAN ISD	13	7701
SIDNEY ISD	1	126
SIERRA BLANCA ISD	1	113
SINTON ISD	4	2022
SMYER ISD	1	442
SOCORRO ISD	33	22203
SONORA ISD	2	680
SPRINGLAKE-EARTH ISD	3	301
SPUR ISD	1	226
SPURGER ISD	2	357
STAFFORD MSD	5	3573

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STAMFORD ISD	2	411
STEPHENVILLE ISD	6	3664
STRAWN ISD	1	171
SUDAN ISD	2	470
SULPHUR SPRINGS ISD	9	4354
TAHOKA ISD	3	597
TEAGUE ISD	4	1223
TEXARKANA ISD	7	3958
THREE RIVERS ISD	2	595
THREE WAY ISD	1	225
THROCKMORTON ISD	1	145
TIDEHAVEN ISD	4	1047
TRENT ISD	1	140
TRINITY BASIN PREPARATORY	12	4672
TULOSO-MIDWAY ISD	5	3671
UNION HILL ISD	2	261
VAN ISD	2	724
VANGUARD ACADEMY	6	6417
VENUS ISD	4	2284
VERNON ISD	2	649

School District	Schools Impacted	Children Impacted
VICTORIA ISD	24	12705
VIDOR ISD	6	4287
WASKOM ISD	3	795
WAYSIDE SCHOOLS	4	1684
WEBB CONSOLIDATED ISD	3	241
WEST HARDIN COUNTY CONS I	2	554
WEST RUSK ISD	1	371
WEST SABINE ISD	2	607
WHITEFACE CONS ISD	1	323
WHITESBORO ISD	4	1751
WHITEWRIGHT ISD	2	569
WILLS POINT ISD	5	2754
WINNSBORO ISD	2	695
WINTERS ISD	3	552
WIRE HOLLOW EDUCATION INNOVATION	1	191
WOODSBORO ISD	2	422
YANTIS ISD	2	369
YORKTOWN ISD	3	528
YSLETA ISD	7	4822