

## State Healthy School Meals for All Legislative Chart

Last updated: November 2023



The following chart lists Healthy School Meals for All state legislation that has been introduced. To date, eight states have successfully passed legislation to offer free school meals to all students, regardless of household income. Many additional states have bills pending.

State	Bill Language	Description + Estimated Investment Needed	Meals Covered	Applicable Schools --- Required or voluntary	Governor support? --- Bipartisan support?	Status
Arizona	<a href="#">HB 2238</a>	Provide free breakfasts and lunches to pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve in each charter school and school district.  Investment estimated at \$106,000,000 from the state general fund.	Breakfast & lunch	Charter schools and school districts  Participation is voluntary	Not included in governor's budget  All original sponsors are democrats	Bill introduced in 2023
California Coalition website: <a href="http://www.schoolmealsforall.org">www.schoolmealsforall.org</a>	<a href="#">CA AB 130, the Education finance: education omnibus budget trailer bill</a>  <a href="#">AB 558 School meals: Child Nutrition Act of 2022</a>	Legislation solidifies Universal Meal Program and provides funding for school kitchen equipment upgrades, food service staff training, the Farm to School Program and evaluation for universal meals. The legislation also requires eligible schools to apply for federal provisions to maximize reimbursements.	Breakfast & lunch	All schools required to participate.  Schools must use CEP or Provision 2 or 3.	Not included in governor's budget.  Governor signed budget bill into law.	<b>Policy passed and is being implemented.</b>  <b>State date: SY 2022-2023</b>

<b>Colorado</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.yesonff.org">www.yesonff.org</a>	Proposition FF ballot language available <a href="#">here</a>  This ballot initiative was a stipulation contained in <a href="#">HB 1414</a> , which passed the House and Senate in May 2022.	Colorado Proposition FF, the Reduce Income Tax Deduction Amounts to Fund School Meals Program Measure, was on the ballot in Colorado as a legislatively referred state statute.  Funding was dedicated to school meals for all by capping itemized and standard state income tax deductions for taxpayers who have federal adjusted gross income of \$300,000 or more.	Breakfast & lunch	School districts (not individual schools) can opt into free school meals.  Participation is voluntary.  Districts must use CEP if they are eligible.	Not included in Governor's budget	<b>Policy passed and is being implemented.</b> (Prop FF passed Nov. 8, 2022)  <b>Start date:</b> <b>SY 2023-2024</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.schoolmealsforallct.org">www.schoolmealsforallct.org</a>	<a href="#">SB929</a> , a bill requiring school boards to establish free school meals for all students.	SB929 has yet to pass.  For the 2023-2024 school year, the legislature dedicated funding to offer free school breakfast to all students.  For the 2022-2023 school year, Connecticut allocated \$30 million for school districts to serve free breakfast and lunch to all students. This was made possible through American Rescue Plan dollars. Later the amount was increased to \$90 million to cover cost of meals for the whole school year.	Breakfast & lunch	Local and regional boards of education  Offering free lunch is required. Offering free breakfast is optional	Not included in Governor's budget	Bill introduced

DC	<a href="#">Universal School Meals Amendment Act of 2023</a>	<p>This legislation would provide free universal school breakfast, lunch, and after-school snacks to students in public, charter, and participating private schools in the District of Columbia beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.</p> <p>The D.C. Food Policy Council estimated that this legislation would likely be an investment of \$8 million annually, as 86% of the cost for this bill would be covered by already existing federal and local reimbursements.</p>	Breakfast & lunch & afterschool snacks	Public school, public charter school and participating private school students  School district participation voluntary	Not applicable	Bill introduced in 2023
Delaware	<a href="#">HB125</a>	This Act would require all schools to offer all students free breakfast and lunch every school day. The Department would reimburse all schools for all expenses not reimbursed by USDA.	Breakfast & lunch	School district participation would be required	Not included in Governor's budget	Bill introduced
Hawaii	<a href="#">HB 540</a> <a href="#">HB 620</a>	Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires the Department of Education to provide free lunch to all enrolled students. Appropriates funds.	Breakfast & lunch	Participation would be required	Not included in Governor's budget	Bills introduced in 2023
Illinois	<a href="#">HB 2471</a>	The legislature passed <a href="#">HB 2471</a> , which would offer school meals at no cost to all students but no	Breakfast & lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	Healthy School Meals for All legislation passed in

		funding was allocated for the program.				2023 but funding was not allocated.
<b>Louisiana</b>	<a href="#">HB 282</a>	A public-school student who is not provided a free breakfast and lunch through any local, state, or federal program shall be provided a free breakfast and lunch.	Breakfast & lunch	Schools required to offer free meals	Not included in Governor's budget	Bill introduced in 2023
<b>Maine</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.fullplates.org/schoolmealforall">www.fullplates.org/schoolmealforall</a>	<a href="#">An Act Regarding Expanding Access to Free School Meals</a>  <a href="#">LD 1679</a> <a href="#">LD 221</a>	<p>The Maine State Legislature passed a Supplemental Budget that included a new Meals for Students Fund and seeded the fund with \$10 million. Later advocacy efforts were successful in securing the remainder of the funding (estimated at \$34 million) in April 2022.</p> <p>The legislature included statutory language in the budget making it so all students in Maine can access school meal programs at no cost.</p> <p>The law also directs the Maine Department of Education to work with school districts to maximize federal reimbursements by participating in all federally funded programs and provisions (CEP &amp; Provision 2) to reduce the financial burden on the state.</p>	Breakfast & lunch	Encouraging schools to use special provisions but not requiring it.	Not included in Governor's budget  Passed with bi-partisan support in the legislature	<b>Policy passed and is being implemented.</b>  <b>Start date:</b> <b>SY 2022-2023</b>

<b>Maryland</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.healthyschoolmealsforall.md.org">www.healthyschoolmealsforall.md.org</a>	Introduced in 2023: <a href="#">SB 557</a> <a href="#">HB 628</a>  Introduced in 2022: <a href="#">HB 857</a>	Fiscal note: <a href="#">2023 Regular Session - Fiscal and Policy Note for House Bill 628 (maryland.gov)</a>  Investment estimated at \$90 million	Breakfast & lunch	School district participation required	Not included in Governor's budget	
<b>Massachusetts</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.feedkidsma.org">www.feedkidsma.org</a>	Bills introduced in 2022 to establish free school meals for all- <a href="#">MA S 314</a> / <a href="#">MA H 714</a> These bills did not pass in the 2022 legislative session but were taken up again in the 2023 legislative session.  <a href="#">Bill H.5050</a> establish free school meals for all students during the 2022-2023 school year. Passed through the <a href="#">FY2023 budget (H.4700)</a>	On July 28, 2022 Governor Baker signed into law a one-year extension of School Meals for All for the 2022-2023 school year. The investment was set not to exceed \$110 million.  The Healey-Driscoll Administration introduced a <a href="#">supplemental budget bill</a> that included \$65 million for to maintain free school meals through the 2022-2023 school year. Without the additional funding, the program would have depleted its appropriation in March 2023.  Governor Healey signed a \$55.98 billion state budget for FY 24, which starts on July 1, 2024. Included in the bill was a \$172 million investment in funding for universal school meals for public school students in kindergarten through high school.	Breakfast & lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	<b>Policy passed and being implemented.</b>  <b>Start date: SY 2023-2024</b>  <b>Note: MA never returned to tiered-payment meals after the start of the pandemic. After USDA waivers expired, MA allocated state funds to continue free school meals for all until legislation passed.</b>

<b>Michigan</b>	<p>Funding was allocated in the <a href="#">FY24 state budget</a> for free school meals for all. It is set to expire summer 2024.</p> <p><a href="#">SB500</a>, a bill to make free school lunch and breakfast a permanent program. It would also allow disabled students age 26 and under who are enrolled in special education programs to also receive meals at no charge.</p>	Governor's proposal includes \$160 million for free school meals	Breakfast & lunch		Yes- <a href="#">in governor's budget</a>	<p><b>Gov. Whitmer signed into law a bipartisan education budget, providing \$160 million to offer all 1.4 million public school students free school meals</b></p> <p><b>Start Date: SY 2023-2024</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy continues to make free school meals for all a continuous part of MI budgeting</b></p>
<p><b>Minnesota</b></p> <p>Coalition website: <a href="http://www.hungersolutions.org/2021/03/14/healthy-hunger-free-schools">www.hungersolutions.org/2021/03/14/healthy-hunger-free-schools</a></p>	<p>Bills introduced in 2023 legislative session: <a href="#">Senate File 123</a> <a href="#">House File 5</a></p>	<p>Bill provides free school breakfast and lunch for all students.</p> <p>Investment estimated at \$200 million</p>	Breakfast & lunch	Required. If schools participate in NSLP, they must participate in free school meals program.	Yes- in governor's budget	<p><b>Policy passed and being implemented.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Signed into law March 17, 2023</a></p>
<b>Missouri</b>	<p><a href="#">House Bill 172</a> <a href="#">Senate Bill 321</a></p>	Requires public schools to provide free breakfasts and	Breakfast & lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	Bills have been introduced

		lunches to all students attending classes in such school				
<b>Montana</b>	<a href="#">HB 863</a>	Free meals for all students. Appropriates \$22 million from the state general fund to the office of public instruction for each fiscal year of the biennium	Breakfast & lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	Bill introduced in 2023 and heard in House Education Committee
<b>Nebraska</b>	Introduced in 2023- <a href="#">LB99- Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act</a>  Introduced in 2021- <a href="#">LB117- Adopt the Hunger-Free School Act</a>	Amends the current statute and require schools to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost. This bill was referred to the Education Committee.	Breakfast & lunch	School district participation would be required	Not included in Governor's budget	Bill was introduced in 2023
<b>New Jersey</b>	Introduced in 2022- <a href="#">S1508</a>	Requires schools to universally provide free meals to all students, regardless of whether students are federally eligible for free or reduced-price meals	Breakfast & Lunch	School district participation required	Not included in Governor's budget	Bill introduced
<b>Nevada</b>	State of NV used COVID pandemic relief funds to provide free school meals for all during 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years  <a href="#">Expenditure of American Rescue</a>	Bill would invest \$43 million to continue providing Nevada students with free breakfast and lunch for the 2024-25 school year  American Rescue Plan funds were used to provide free school meals for all students during the 2022-2023 school year. <a href="#">Up to \$75 million</a>	Breakfast & lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	Bill was introduced  <b>Free meals for all students established for SY 2022-2023 and SY 2023-2024</b>  Funds were allocated by <a href="#">Interim Finance Committee</a>

	<a href="#">Plan Act, Coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds</a>  To extend free school meals, Assemblywoman Jauregui introduced <a href="#">AB319</a> , seeking \$43 million to extend the coverage to the 2024-25 school year.	The Nevada State legislature has approved an additional \$28M to continue universal school meals for school year 2023-2024.				<a href="#">Item H15</a>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<a href="#">SB 4</a>	Ensures free, healthy school meals for all students. Makes an appropriation.  \$22.5 million was allocated to fund universal school meals through state budget bill, <a href="#">HB 2</a> .	Breakfast & Lunch		Yes- in governor's budget  The bill passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate.	<b>Policy passed and being implemented.</b>  <b>Governor signed into law 3/27/23</b>  <b>Start date: July 1, 2023</b>
<b>New York</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.schoolmealsforallny.org">www.schoolmealsforallny.org</a>	Introduced in 2023: <a href="#">Assembly Bill A01941</a>  Previous bills introduced include: <a href="#">S9144</a> / <a href="#">A9518</a>	<a href="https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A01941&amp;term=2023">https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A01941&amp;term=2023</a>  Senate and Assembly included \$280 million for universal free school meals in their budget proposals	Breakfast & lunch	School district participation required	Not included in Governor's budget	



<b>North Carolina</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.schoolmealsforallinc.org">www.schoolmealsforallinc.org</a>	<a href="#">House Bill 1074</a> <a href="#">Senate Bill 887</a>				Not included in Governor's budget	Bills have been introduced
<b>North Dakota</b>	<a href="#">HB 1491</a>	Provide universal school lunch for all students in the state  Expected investment = \$89.5 million for the biennium. This would likely be enough to cover breakfast as well.  An expected amendment would make the policy permanent.  HB 1494 introduced in 2023 legislative session. Aims to end lunch shaming practices.  SB 2284 included lunch shaming language and was signed into law by governor on 4/7/23	Lunch only		Not included in Governor's budget	HB 1491 has been amended to provide free meals to students up to 200% of the poverty level. It is included in SB 2284 and is an investment of \$6 million.
<b>Ohio</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.hungerfreeschoolsoh.org">www.hungerfreeschoolsoh.org</a>		The Ohio State Board of Education <a href="#">passed a resolution</a> recommending that the General Assembly use ARPA funding to provide free breakfast and lunch to students in Ohio.			Not included in Governor's budget	
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Rep. John Waldron (D-Tulsa) <a href="#">hosted an interim study</a> titled "Free School Lunches:	The study explores the benefits and costs of expanding free school lunches and will inform future legislative efforts.			Not included in Governor's budget	

	Examining Developments and Expanding Eligibility.”					
<b>Oregon</b>	<a href="#">HB 3030</a>	Provide free school meals to all K-12 students in Oregon.  Later amended to create a task force charged with recommending strategies to implement a Healthy School Meals for All policy statewide by September 2024.			Not included in Governor’s budget	Bill introduced
<b>Pennsylvania</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.snapa.org/mealsforall">www.snapa.org/mealsforall</a>	Bills introduced in 2022-2023 Session SB180  Bills introduced in 2021-2022 Session <a href="#">Senate Bill 1327</a> <a href="#">House Bill 2829</a>	No Student Should Go Hungry Universal School Meals: providing for the Universal School Meal Program and establishing the Universal School Meal Fund.			Not included in Governor’s budget	Bills introduced in 2021-2022 session
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<a href="#">SB 68</a> <a href="#">HB 5639</a>		Breakfast & Lunch		Not included in Governor’s budget	Bills introduced
<b>South Carolina</b>	<a href="#">General Assembly Bill 148</a>				Not included in Governor’s budget	Bill introduced
<b>South Dakota</b>	<a href="#">HB1221</a>	A bill to offer free school lunches to K through 12 public schools.	Lunch only		Not included in Governor’s budget	Bill introduced

<b>Tennessee</b>	<p>Bill introduced in 2022-  <a href="#">SB 1897</a>  <a href="#">HB1744</a></p> <p>Bills introduced in 2023-  <a href="#">SB0208</a>  <a href="#">HB0255</a></p>	Requires each local school board to establish a school lunch program and a school breakfast program that provides a free breakfast and lunch to each student enrolled in a school under the board's jurisdiction; requires the state to reimburse each LEA the cost of providing a free breakfast and lunch to each student enrolled in the LEA after all available federal funds have been applied	Breakfast & Lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	Bills introduced
<b>Vermont</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.universalschoolmealsvt.org">www.universalschoolmealsvt.org</a>	<a href="#">S 100 (Act 151)</a> – one year extension of free school meals for all 2023 Legislation: <a href="#">H. 165</a>	S100 provides free school breakfast and lunch for all students for the 2022-2023 school. Funds provided from Education Fund. The bill also establishes a task force to advise the legislature on how to make school food available to all students at no cost to families permanently.	Breakfast & Lunch	Private schools allowed to get the state supplement if they offer universal meals, only get for publicly tuitioned students.  To receive supplemental state funds, schools must participate in CEP or Provision 2.	Not included in Governor's budget	<b>Policy passed and being implemented.</b>  <b>Start date: SY 2022-2023</b>

<b>Virginia</b>	<a href="#">HB 1967</a>	Makes school meals available at no cost to students	Breakfast & Lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	Bill introduced
<b>Washington</b>	<a href="#">HB 1238</a> <a href="#">SB 5339</a>	Would add free school meals to the definition of basic education in WA  <a href="#">Fiscal note</a> estimates investment at \$200 million/ biennium	Breakfast & Lunch		Not included in Governor's budget	Bills introduced
<b>Wisconsin</b>  Coalition website: <a href="http://www.healthyschoolmealsforallwi.org">www.healthyschoolmealsforallwi.org</a>	<a href="#">Assembly Bill 805</a>		Breakfast & Lunch		Yes- <a href="#">in governor's budget</a>	Bill introduced