

Healthy School Meals for All

Children and teens cannot learn on an empty stomach. There are many students that need a nutritious breakfast and lunch at school who do not qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

Healthy School Meals for All means offering a free breakfast and lunch to all students at school, regardless of their household income, so they can learn and thrive. Serving school meals to all students at no cost on a permanent basis would be a game changer for students, families, and schools.



Benefits of Providing Free Meals to All Students:



**ENSURES ALL STUDENTS
ARE HUNGER-FREE
AND READY TO LEARN**



**REDUCES STIGMA
ASSOCIATED WITH
EATING SCHOOL MEALS**



**ENDS THE PROBLEM
OF UNPAID
SCHOOL MEAL DEBT**



**EASES
ADMINISTRATIVE
BURDENS FOR SCHOOLS**



**SUPPORTS SCHOOL
NUTRITION FINANCES
AND OPERATIONS**



School meals are just as important to students' **academic success** as textbooks.



During the pandemic (March 2020–June 2022), schools had the option to serve **free meals to all students**, and this effectively served as a trial run of a **nationwide free school meals for all policy**.



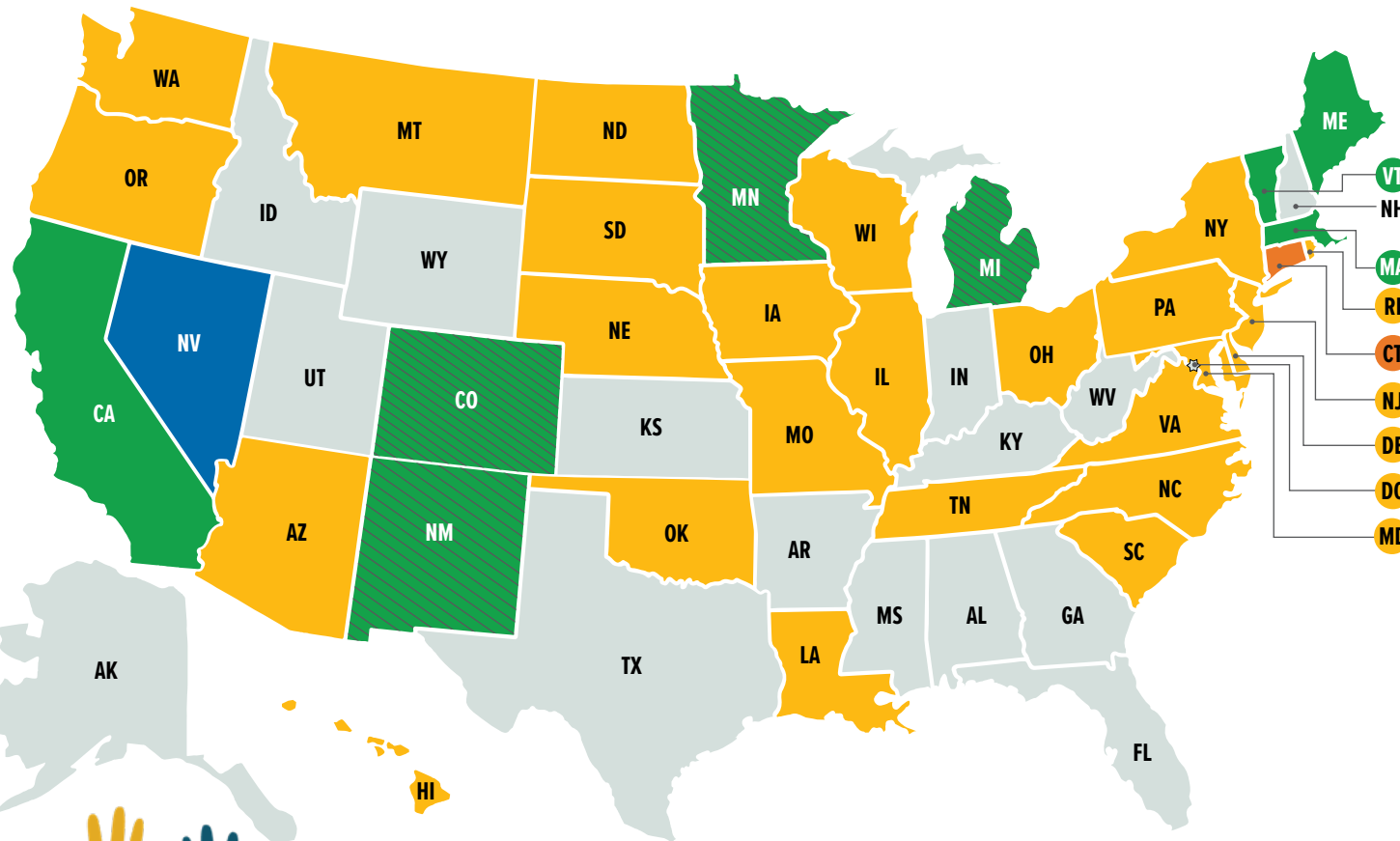
Research links participation in **school meals** to **positive educational and health outcomes** for children.



Sixty-three percent of voters believe that **free school meals for all students nationwide** should be made **permanent**, according to FRAC polling.

Momentum Is Building for Healthy School Meals for All

Across the U.S., parents, teachers, students, school nutrition staff, policymakers, and many others are raising their hand in support of Healthy School Meals for All. California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, Vermont, Michigan, and Massachusetts have passed Healthy School Meals for All legislation. Nevada is putting remaining COVID pandemic relief funds to good use by offering free school meals to all students during the 2023–2024 school year. Many other states are currently considering Healthy School Meals for All legislation.



- Policies Passed, Starting 2022–2023 School Year
- Policies Passed, Starting 2023–2024 School Year
- Policy in Place for 2022–2023 School Year
- Policy in Place for 2022–2023, 2023–2024 School Years
- HSMFA Bills Introduced and/or Coalitions Formed

UPDATED JANUARY 2024

Learn more at www.FreeSchoolMealsforAll.org