

School Meals for All Connecticut

No-cost meals allow students to learn and thrive.



What is School Meals for All CT? School Meals for All is an inclusive and extensive statewide coalition supporting legislation for no-cost school meals at every public school. The proposal includes school meals and farm to school programs that help our kids to learn and to be healthy while creating equity and economic opportunities in Connecticut.

School Meals for All CT is a necessary program.

Federal and state funding for universal meals has run out, leaving school food service directors and families scrambling for solutions.



Did you know? In the 2021-2022 school year, nearly **75 million** no-cost meals were served compared to **25 million** free, reduced price, and full-price meals served the school year prior.

Studies show school meals are the most balanced, nutritious meals students eat throughout the day, regardless of income. **Better nutrition helps kids thrive in and out of school.** Our neighbors in VT, ME, MA, and NY are on board and stand behind this!

TEAM

TESTIMONIAL



"Children cannot be successful in school when they're hungry; students should be able to focus on learning, and not where their next meal is coming from. We know students most often get their healthiest meal of the day at school, so it's critical that we ensure school meals are equitably accessible to ALL students."

JULIETH CALLEJAS

Executive Director of End Hunger Connecticut!



A LEG UP IN LEARNING

Students across the state are losing anywhere from half a year to just over a full year of learning. * Without no-cost meals, the numbers could continue to be crippling to the state's education systems in unforeseen ways.

*<https://educationrecoverycorecard.org/2022/10/28/new-research-provides-first-clear-picture-of-district-level-learning-losses-in-connecticut/>



SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES

The USDA predicts food prices will increase up to 12 percent this year and more in the next. No-cost school meals will ensure families are on track to recover from the pandemic financially.



FARM TO SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

School Meals for All CT includes a strong farm to school component incentivizing local procurement in school meals. The Farm to School Grants Program will integrate educational programs into classrooms and incentivizes local food procurement from our farmers.

We need you and your organization to mobilize with us. Learn more at:

SchoolMeals4AllCT.org



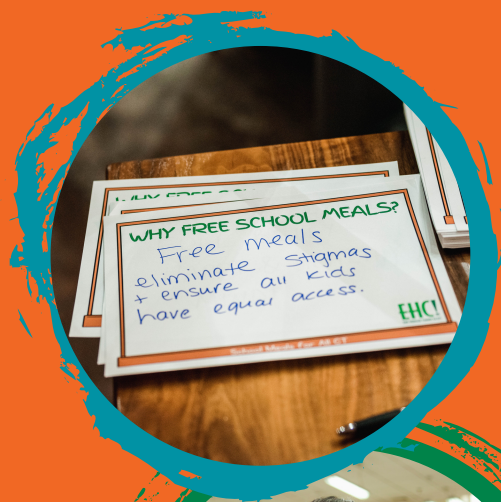
Help us ensure equitable no-cost meals for all CT public school students permanently!

IT'S TIME TO MOBILIZE + SUPPORT OUR KIDS



One in eight Connecticut children suffer from hunger and while some of these children may be able to receive free meals at school, there are many whose families cannot afford the cost of meals for the whole school year. Currently, a family of four in the state does not qualify for no-cost meals when their pre-tax income reaches over \$36,075. In order for a student to receive reduced-priced breakfast (\$0.30) and lunch (\$0.40) the cut-off is \$51,338 for the same family size (Hartford Courant 12/19/22).

No-cost school meals not only support child learning and nutrition, but reduces stigmas in meal-serving patterns, lessens the administrative burden on school food service staff, and relieves financial stress for families.



Whether you want to formally sit on our Coalition or just want to stay up to date, join us below!

SchoolMeals4AllCT.org