

Join the Coalition to Make Oregon's Schools Hunger-Free in 2019

Promoting School Meals for Student Success

Oregon has a historic opportunity in 2019 to give our kids the tools to succeed in school. Improving access to school meals will help fuel student success. School meals improve school performance, promote family economic stability, and lead to better health.

The Hunger-Free Schools Coalition seeks to make school meals accessible to every child in Oregon through Universal School Meals.

Why Universal School Meals?

- **Increases future earnings.** Kids who attend schools that serve meals to all students at no charge earn more as adults.
- **Reduces stigma.** Universal meals level the playing field for all students. It's just classmates breaking bread together.
- **Equity.** In this time of fear and uncertainty around immigration, reports are widespread of immigrant families being reluctant to apply for benefits for which they're legally eligible - including school meals. No child should go without a meal due to fear.
- **Centers the needs of kids and working parents.** In listening circles with parents and students, the idea of universal meals emerged as a key issue.
- **No more School Meal Debt.** That's good for kids, schools, and families.
- **Eliminates the "Benefit Cliff."** Due to the high cost of housing, 37% of kids in Oregon who experience food insecurity are in households that earn *too much* to qualify.

Now is the time!

It's difficult to succeed in school when you are hungry. It doesn't have to be this way. School meals not only reduce child hunger, but contribute to student success. Every day, schools across the state serve Oregon kids with nutritious and healthy meals that ensure students are able to thrive.

Children who participate in school meals are shown to:

- attend more days of school,
- improve test scores,
- be more likely to graduate, and
- earn more as adults.

A top priority for the 2019 session will be improving our state's low graduation rates. This is an opportunity to pass historic legislation to ensure our students have the foundation of a nutritious breakfast and lunch to succeed academically.



Join the Hunger-Free Schools Coalition

The Hunger-Free Schools Coalition is advocating for the Legislature to pass two bills that will offer all students the opportunity to eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no charge.

As a member of the Hunger-Free Schools Coalition, our organization endorses the following policy ideas (select all that apply):

- Universal School Meals, urging Oregon's legislature to ensure all students (K-12) have the opportunity to eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no charge.
- Breakfast After the Bell, ensuring all kids have access to universal school breakfast by mandating it be served after the school day begins in high-poverty schools.

Coalition Agreements

- The coalition can list our organization as a public supporter of this effort.
- The coalition will notify you of the opportunity to endorse specific proposals. Joining the coalition does not imply endorsement of any particular bill.

Name: _____
(Must be authorized to sign on your organization)

Your Title: _____

Your Email Address: _____

To support this effort, our organization can:

- Identify people who have lived experience with accessing school meals to share their story to help make change (web profile, testimony in Salem, etc.)
- Submit testimony to the legislature in early 2019
- Attend the Hunger-Free Schools Day of Action on April 18, 2019
- Bring a group of ___ people to attend the Hunger-Free Schools Day of Action
- Raise awareness about the campaign and promote action alerts to your network
- Submit an op-ed or be a media spokesperson.
- Other: _____

You may also use our online form to sign on at www.oregonhunger.org/hfs-coalition

Contact Matt Newell-Ching, Hunger-Free Oregon
matt@oregonhunger.org or 503-956-9735