



HSMA Funding is at Risk

Coloradoans voted for Healthy School Meals for All, not some...

The Colorado legislation *Healthy School Meals for All* is a significant step toward ensuring equitable access to nutritious meals for all Colorado students, regardless of their family's income. By providing free breakfast and lunch to every student, the law aims to reduce food insecurity, improve student health, and support academic success by removing financial barriers to healthy meals. This policy is especially impactful in addressing disparities faced by low-income families, promoting inclusivity, and fostering a healthier, more engaged student body. Additionally, the legislation supports local economies by directing funding to Colorado-based food producers and providers, creating a ripple effect that benefits communities across the state.



Keep HSMA a Universal Free Program

- HSMA has been a success!
 - In one year, throughout Colorado, Breakfast increased 37% and Lunch increased 30% (1)
 - Districts are seeing decreases in [absences and truancy](#).
 - Federal dollars from HSMA into the Colorado economy has increased from \$196M to \$219M, that's [\\$23M](#) more for the Colorado Economy. (CDE)
- [Proposed cuts](#) create more disparity in our communities by removing free breakfast from all grade levels or free lunch from High School students.(2) This jeopardizes student access to nutrition which helps them think, learn and grow.
- Proposed cuts also put financial burdens back on school districts who will be forced to use General Fund monies to cover their costs. This could push districts to revoke the program. (3)

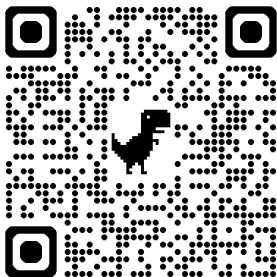
HSMA Creates Jobs Across Colorado

- Increases in meals served, means more jobs in School Nutrition. School Food Service jobs are family friendly with benefits not found in typical food service. Preparing scratch-made meals students love requires more time and more people.
- School districts across Colorado are dedicated to increasing local menu items. Incorporating local products in school meals results in tasty, fresh, and healthy meals connected directly to Colorado producers. In the school year 2022-2023, the Local Food Program was able to connect 49 Colorado producers, farmers, distributors and food hubs with school districts. [Learn more here](#).

The Colorado School Nutrition Association is asking our legislators to only support bills which increase revenue to keep HSMA Universal and sustainable!

For more information contact: **CSNA PPL Chair:** Shannon Thompson sthompson2@cherrycreekschools.org

Digital Position Paper



References:

- 1 - [Urban Institute, Healthy School Meals for All report, p. 2](#)
- 2 - [Urban Institute Healthy School Meals for All report, p. Xii](#)
- 3 - [Urban Institute Healthy School Meals for All report, p. 86](#)