

# School Meals for All

New Opportunities to Create Healthier,  
Hunger-Free Schools for Oregon's Students

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# Oregon has Made Progress in Access to School Meals

- Every student deserves access to meals at school to help kids learn, grow, and thrive.
- Participation in school meals is linked to better attendance, better health outcomes, and higher future earnings.\*
- 2019: Oregon incentivized participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).
  - CEP allows schools to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge and without applications.
  - Over half of schools in Oregon now participate in CEP. Prior to the SSA, it was about one quarter of schools.

\* [FRAC: The Case for Healthy School Meals for All](#)



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# Benefits of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)



Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)



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# With New Changes, Oregon Can Go Even Further

- New USDA Rule (Oct '23) means hundreds more schools in Oregon are now eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision.
- Participation in Medicaid Direct Certification Pilot (new this school year) means **SSA funding will go further than previously anticipated.**
- Many schools that are now eligible for CEP do not yet have access to SSA funding because state rules have not yet been updated.



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# Recommendations

## Short-Term

- Update Oregon Administrative Rules\* to match new federal rules, allowing hundreds of newly-eligible schools to participate in CEP.
- Rules as currently written are a barrier to participation.

## 2025

- **Make School Meals for All the policy for all Oregon's students.** 8 other states have already done this.

\* [OAR 581-051-0610: Community Eligibility Provision Incentive Reimbursement Program](#)



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