

FACT SHEET

STOP THE BLOCK
PROTECT OUR CHILDREN, PRESERVE SCHOOL MEALS

STOP THE BLOCK COALITION

▶ BACKGROUND



In 1946, the federal government made a promise to America's families that students will always have access to healthy meals at school. Today, more than 30 million students rely on federally funded school meals to provide the nutrition they need to succeed.

Unfortunately, Members of Congress have proposed a drastic change to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) that would eliminate that long-standing guarantee.

Proposed fixed-sum block grants to the states would result in severe funding cuts and the elimination of federal nutrition standards. Schools would be unable to serve additional at-risk students when economic downturns or rising enrollments increase the number of children who need free or reduced price meals. Even children who need temporary assistance due to a natural disaster could be denied school meals.

The Stop the Block Coalition, a project of the School Nutrition Association, has been organized to prevent harsh and unnecessary changes to federal school meal programs.

The very foundation of our federal school meal programs is at risk.

Contact your
U.S. Senators and
House Members today
and tell them to

STOP THE BLOCK
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Preserve School Meals



stopblockgrantsnow.org

▶ BLOCK GRANT FUNDING Less Money, Fewer Meals, More Hungry Children

- Since NSLP's and SBP's founding, every family that meets federal requirements is eligible for free or reduced price meals for their children at school.
- Under block grants, the federal government would send a fixed amount of money to a state and ask the state to develop its own school meals programs with little or no federal standards or oversight. The traditional federal school meal program will end as we know it.



BLOCK GRANT FUNDING continued

- Under block grants, the federal government would send a fixed amount of money to a state and ask the state to develop its own school meals programs with little or no federal standards or oversight. The traditional federal school meal program will end as we know it.
- Block grants represent a dramatic and dangerous shift in the philosophy of the NSLP and SBP that will put millions of children at risk, hurt jobs and the economy and break our nation's promise to provide a safety net for America's most vulnerable children and families.
- Proposals to fund the NSLP and SBP through block grants to states would:
 - ✓ Slash NSLP and SBP funding by up to 12% by eliminating:
 - the six cents per lunch schools receive under the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act;
 - the reimbursement for full price meals served; and
 - all inflationary increases.
 - ✓ Provide no additional funding to help schools respond to children's needs in economic downturns or natural disasters.
 - ✓ Force school districts to cover meal program losses at the expense of academics.
 - ✓ Put children at risk of hunger and obesity.
 - ✓ Abolish federal nutrition standards and compromise the quality of school meals.
 - ✓ Divert school meal resources to other purposes.
 - ✓ Result in fewer food service and supplier jobs, negatively impacting local, state and national economies.
 - ✓ Force some states and school district to raise taxes.
 - ✓ Create a chaotic patchwork of 50 state laws and standards.



SUMMARY

Properly nourished children perform better academically, have better attendance records and fewer behavioral problems than those who are not. **Preventing block grant funding of the NSLP and SBP is a top priority for the STOP THE BLOCK Coalition.**



Join the **STOP THE BLOCK Coalition** and Contact Your Elected Officials in Washington, D.C., to Tell Them to Protect our Children and Preserve School Meals!

For more information, visit stopblockgrantsnow.org

