

Oppose any effort to block grant school meal programs.

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

Fixed-sum school meal block grants to the states would eliminate that long standing guarantee with devastating funding cuts and the elimination of all federal school nutrition standards. School meal programs depend on entitlement status and guaranteed federal reimbursements for each meal served to ensure students in need have consistent access to free and reduced price meals and to support the health and achievement of all students.

Block grants represent a dramatic and dangerous policy shift that would put children at risk by financially crippling school meal programs. Schools would no longer receive funds 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 vulnerable children who need temporary assistance due to a natural disaster could be denied school meals.

The non-partisan [Congressional Budget Office](#) warned that: "block grants that are smaller than the funding that current legislation would provide would probably eliminate access to nutrition programs for some children and reduce it for others. Such grants would also leave the programs unable to respond automatically to economic downturns."

Research shows school [breakfast](#) and [lunch](#) programs support obesity prevention, student health and academic achievement. We cannot afford to dismantle these effective programs. The Stop the Block Coalition is calling on Congress to protect our children and preserve school meals – learn more at StopBlockGrantsNow.org.