

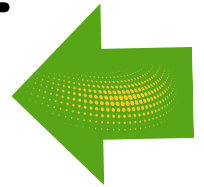
# HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL (HB25-1274)



**Sponsors:** Rep. Lorena García & Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet

**Colorado's Healthy School Meals for All program provides more than 600,000 free meals to students each day**, which reduces stigma, ensures students' nutritional needs are met and eases the financial burden on families and school budgets. **Supporting House Bill 25-1274 means voters will get a chance to approve fully funding and implementing this successful program!**

**Healthy School Meals for All keeps kids fed AND saves families up to \$1,300 per child per year!**



**What does HB25-1274 do?**

**We need additional funding to keep kids fed AND implement the voter approved elements that are currently on hold due to funding shortfalls:** training & increased wages for the people who prepare & serve meals, and partnerships with local farmers to include fresh, healthy ingredients & support local economies.

## RETAIN

The bill refers a ballot measure for voters to agree to keep all the funds raised by Proposition FF to continue feeding kids, rather than returning a portion of the money to wealthy Coloradans.

## RAISE

To meet the high need for school meals, this legislation refers a measure to ask voters to approve further lowering tax deductions for people making \$300,000 or more to provide additional funds.

## SUSTAIN

The bill creates a reserve & process for phasing in investment in wages, local purchasing & support for preparing tasty meals using local foods while ensuring the financial health & sustainability of the program.



**Contacts:** Anya Rose ([anya@hungerfreecolorado.org](mailto:anya@hungerfreecolorado.org)), Hunger Free Colorado  
Becky Long ([becky@slpublicaffairs.com](mailto:becky@slpublicaffairs.com)), Siegel Long Public Affairs  
Chae Park ([chae@slpublicaffairs.com](mailto:chae@slpublicaffairs.com)), Siegel Long Public Affairs



## How does this bill help fully fund & implement HSMA?

- Asks voters to approve raising up to \$95M in additional revenue by further lowering tax deduction limits for people who make more than \$300,000 a year to ensure long-term stability & enable all components are implemented.
- Asks voters to approve retaining the funds raised through Prop FF to support the program rather than sending refunds to wealthy Coloradans. This is a requirement of our state Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

*We will continue to work with legislators and partners to refine these measures to ensure we can create long-term program sustainability by incorporating new developments at the federal level, updated 24-25 program data and the latest economic forecasts and voter research.*



## How will this bill help farmers & local economies?

The bill seeks to continue & expand the successful Local Food Purchasing Program that helps schools purchase & prepare meals with food from Colorado farmers & ranchers. Since this program began, **over \$2M has been directed to local food, resulting in a \$3.4M boost to local economies.**

**More than \$750,000 has also been invested in training & technical assistance** to connect producers & schools and provide culinary skills to create consistent and sustainable market channels for our producers.



## How does this bill help kids & families?

- Students who eat at school have **improved attendance, behavior, academic performance**, and academic achievement as well as decreased tardiness.
- Receiving a school lunch **reduces poor health by at least 29%** and is linked with fewer visits to the school nurse & reductions in behavioral problems.
- Research shows **children are getting their healthiest meals at school.**

Resources:  
Nourish Colorado, "About the Local Food Program", [guidebook.nourishcolorado.org/about-us](https://guidebook.nourishcolorado.org/about-us), 2025  
FRAC (Food Research & Action Center), "School Meals are Essential for Student Health and Learning", [frac.org/wp-content/uploads/School-Meals-are-Essential-Health-and-Learning.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/School-Meals-are-Essential-Health-and-Learning.pdf), May 2021



**Sign on to support our efforts to fully fund & implement HSMA to keep kids fed!**





# Organizations endorsing Healthy School Meals for All (HB 25-1274)



ALL FAMILIES DESERVE  
A CHANCE COALITION



American  
Heart  
Association.



BOULDER COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
Opportunity for a Healthy Life



Colorado Consumer  
Health Initiative

## Colorado Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



COLORADO  
CHILDREN'S  
CAMPAIGN  
*Every Chance for Every Child*

CALPHO  
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials



COLORADO FOUNDATION FOR  
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE



Colorado  
**PTA**  
*everychild. onevoice.*

**CCLP**  
Colorado Center  
on Law and Policy

**COLORADO**  
Fiscal Institute

Community  
Ministry  
*Food Pantry & More*

**COPA** COLORADO  
PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE  
WE FIGHT. WE WIN



DENVER INNER  
CITY PARISH

Empowering People. Building Community. Saving Lives.



**FRAC**  
Food Research & Action Center

DENVER  
**FOOD  
RESCUE**  
DENVERFOODRESCUE.ORG



**FOOD TO POWER**



Food Security  
Network  
BOULDER & BROOMFIELD COUNTIES



**GO FARM**



**gh** Growing Home

Community  
Food Bank

Green Junction  
FARMSTEAD



HEALTHY COMMUNITY  
FOOD SYSTEMS



Healthy Land, Healthy Food,  
Healthy People



**hearty**

Provisions with purpose.

**HUNGER**  
**FREE COLORADO**



**Jeffco**  
**PTA**

everychild.onevoice.®



**METRO CARING**

ENDING HUNGER AT ITS ROOT  
TERMINAR LAS CAUSAS PROFUNDAS DEL HAMBRE



**PUEBLO**  
**FOOD**  
**PROJECT**



**MONTBELLO**  
**Organizing Committee**  
A Community Development Corporation



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**INSTITUTE**  
AT DENVER HEALTH™



**One Colorado**



**Rocky Mountain**  
**Farmers Union**



**Save the Children**  
Action Network™



**SPRING**  
**INSTITUTE**  
For Intercultural Learning



**Slow Food**  
DENVER



**Sprout**  
City Farms



BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Sister Carmen**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**



**WE DON'T WASTE**  
SAVING FOOD • PROTECTING THE PLANET • FEEDING PEOPLE

**Western**  
**COLORADO**  
**ALLIANCE**  
FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Aurora Public Schools \* Colorado Ethiopian Community

Eastside Action Support Team \* Latinas Community Conections Services

Latina Safehouse \* Mesa County Valley SD 51

Roaring Fork Schools RE-1 \* The I Will Projects

**Together, we are working to keep kids fed.**