NH HUNGER SOLUTIONS
ENDING HUNGER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE MEALS IN SCHOOL

Food – like teachers and books and desks – is fundamental to student success. All children should have the opportunity to succeed.

When students have reliable access to school meals, test scores rise, classroom engagement improves, and kids are healthier in the short- and long-term

The Problem

- Federal eligibility limits don't reflect the cost of living in NH, and leave families struggling and without support.
- Working families who earn just above the federal threshold are struggling to afford food.
- The current system doesn't help all the kids who need free/reduced school meals.
- NH school districts are carrying heavy burdens of unpaid school meal debt.

The cap for SNAP benefits is $55,00 below what a family actually needs to earn to cover basic necessities.

*values based on numbers for a family of three

The Solution

- **Universal School Meals:** Eliminate New Hampshire's complex three-tiered system and ensure every child receives free school meals.
- **Raise the income threshold** for free meal eligibility to cover middle-income families.



Why This Matters

- **For Students:** School meals improve physical and mental health, boost test scores, and remove the social stigma of needing free or reduced meals.
- **For Families & Schools:** Reduces household food insecurity, reduces school meal debt for local districts, and eases the burden on working parents.

Feeding New Hampshire's children is an investment in our state's future.