

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

S. 2752, the School Hunger Elimination Act

The National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) are critical programs that support the long-term health and well-being of children. The School Hunger Elimination Act makes vital improvements to the NSLP and SBP to increase school meal access to more vulnerable children, reduce administrative burdens for schools and reduce school meal debt and lunch shaming.

Specifically, this legislation would:

Directly certify all school-age children receiving Medicaid.

At present, only 19 states are operating the Medicaid direct certification demonstration project. The School Hunger Elimination Act would expand this demonstration, requiring all eligible children participating in Medicaid to be directly certified for free or reduced-priced school meals.

Expansion of Mandatory Direct Certification.

The School Hunger Elimination Act would require school districts to directly certify children receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance, children in foster care, children attending Head Start, children experiencing homelessness or children who are runaways or migrants.

Increase the community eligibility reimbursement.

The School Hunger Elimination Act would increase the CEP reimbursement multiplier from 1.6 to 1.8, making it easier for eligible schools to cover their costs while forgoing meal fees.

Allow community eligibility school groupings across districts.

The School Hunger Elimination Act would establish a demonstration project that would allow groupings for community eligibility to be determined across school districts, potentially even statewide. This flexibility would enable more schools to come together in groupings that are economically feasible and sensible, benefiting schools and low-income children.

Retroactive Reimbursements.

The School Hunger Elimination Act would expand the time period for retroactive reimbursement and allow such reimbursement to go back from whenever eligibility is determined back to the beginning of the school year.