

Tennessee State Legislation

End Hunger and Improve Education & Workforce Outcomes

HB1153/SB740

Expanding Free School Meals for Students in Need

Bill Sponsors: Representative Susan Lynn and Senator Bobby Harshbarger

This bill requires schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to students who qualify for reduced-price meals. If state funds are available, the state will reimburse schools for these costs to ensure more students receive free meals.

1 in 5 TN children are food insecure



How This Bill Helps Tennessee Children and Schools



Expand free school meals to more Tennessee children



Students who are eligible for reduced-priced meals would become eligible for free school meals



\$2.2 million is the total cost to the state of Tennessee

- Improves access to healthy school meals to children in need
- Provides schools with better control of their budgets
- Decreases school meal debt
- Increases school meal participation, allowing TN to regain the \$44 million lost in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- Improves educational, health, and economic outcomes
- Provides an important school supply! Like books and buses, students need meals.