



Making the right food choices, together.

HB14-1156 Expansion of The Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program

Every student should have access to a healthy school lunch. Colorado has led the nation in eliminating the reduced price co-pay for breakfast for all grade levels and lunch for students in grades PK– 2. This bill adds students in grades 3-12 to SB09-033 eliminating the lunch co-pay of \$0.40 for all students and will help ensure that all students have access to a healthy, nutritious school **LUNCH**.

WHY SCHOOL LUNCH?

“One in four kids in the U.S. faces hunger.”
- Jeff Bridges

Hungry children simply cannot learn.

Child Hunger Ends Here, Now!

School Nutrition programs across Colorado and the nation see a decrease in participation at the end of the month, reflecting that the 40 cent fee is a real barrier to eating lunch for many hungry children in Colorado.

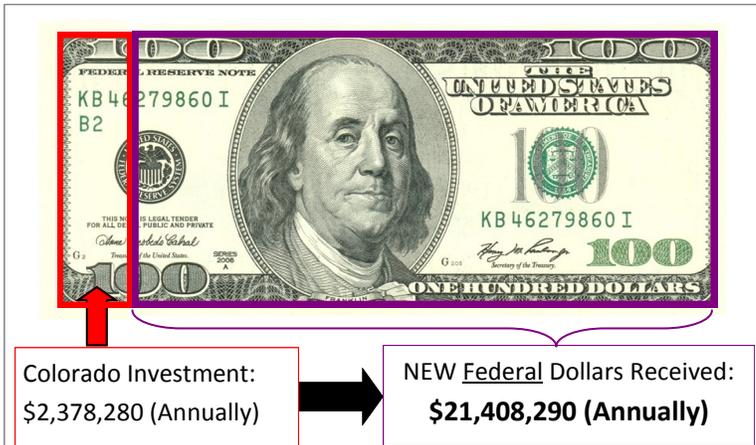
Data indicates that up to 13% more reduced eligible students eat lunch when the .40 co-pay is eliminated.¹

900%

is the ROI to the Colorado economy by eliminating the Reduced Lunch price for all grades.

¹ Pueblo City Schools experience with co-pay elimination

A Great Return on Investment:



HUGE RETURNS FOR OUR KIDS!

Currently **15,601** eligible K-2nd grade Reduced students have access to a Free Lunch through SB09-033.

15,601

48,337

This proposed amendment gives the opportunity for **48,337 additional!** Reduced students to access a healthy lunch for **FREE**.

Reaches a Total of 63,938 Students!

A Growing List of Bill Supporters Includes...

- ◆ Colorado Association of School Executives
- ◆ Colorado Children's Campaign
- ◆ Colorado Education Association
- ◆ Colorado League of Charter Schools
- ◆ Colorado School Nutrition Association
- ◆ Hunger Free Colorado
- ◆ Junior League of Denver
- ◆ LiveWell Colorado
- ◆ Aurora Public Schools, Boulder Valley SD, Falcon #49, Mapleton Public Schools, and more!



Just the Facts

- ◆ For every .40 cents spent in state dollars to pay for a reduced student's lunch, \$2.78 will be received in federal dollars through USDA meal reimbursement.*
- ◆ For an investment of \$2,378,280 Colorado would receive \$21,408,290 in federal funds.
A 900% return on investment!**
- ◆ Please note: The difference between a family of 4 who is eligible to receive free meal benefits and a family of 4 who receives reduced benefits is only \$35.49 per day.

* Based on Severe Need meal reimbursement rate of \$2.55 and national average rate for value of donated foods of 23.25 cents per meal for School Year 2013-14)

** Assumes an 80% participation rate times 175 school days.

Child Nutrition programs have a direct economic impact of over \$175 million each year in Colorado.



\$14 million in USDA donated foods (many from Colorado Farmers) are distributed to the lunch programs in our state.

Reduced Lunches Served in SY12-13

Grades PK-2: 1,777,143
Grades 3-12: 4,353,866
Total Reduced lunches served: **6,131,009**

Students eligible to RECEIVE a Reduced priced meal:

10,577,350 or 58% actually ate

So, what happened with the other 42% who did not eat school lunch?

Students each day with reduced meal benefits who did not eat school lunch each school day last year: **20,408**

Did they eat at all?

Statistics on Hunger

48.8 million Americans—including 16.2 million children— live in households that lack the means to get adequate nutritious food on a regular basis. As a result, they struggle with hunger at some time during the year. (Share Our Strength website 2010 data)

Children who struggle with hunger are sick more often, recover more slowly, and are more likely to be hospitalized. (SOS Website)

3 in 5 K-8 public school teachers say students regularly come to school hungry. (From a survey by Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign)

Here's what Coloradoans are saying about this amendment to SB09-033...

"This bill will help me continue to feed hungry students in my district and aims to eliminate a real barrier for some of our neediest families allowing students to focus on learning instead of hunger."

Jeremy West, Greeley, CO