Senate Bill 348
Healthy Meals for Kids
Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) & Co-Authors

THIS BILL
Senate Bill 348 will help ensure that California’s new universal meal program provides our students healthy, nutritious meals by enacting the new federal school nutrition standards aimed at reducing sugars, salt and fat and increasing whole grains in school meals. Additionally, SB 348 will require the state to define an adequate time to eat school meals and maximize newly available federal funds to help prevent childhood hunger during the summer.

ISSUE
In 2021, California became the first state in the nation to establish a universal meal program providing every public school pupil the right not only to a free education, but also to two nutritious meals each school day, free of charge. This proposal was initially proposed in Senate Bill 348 and then passed in the Budget Act of 2021.

Additional investments in the 22-23 Budget increased the ability of schools to purchase locally and sustainably grown food and to prepare fresh, rather than pre-packaged, meals.

Nutritional science has long established that children who eat meals at school have improved nutrition and health outcomes. This is especially true for children who experience high rates of food insecurity. By building off of the standards in the National School Lunch Program, and adding additional support for the quality of the meals served, California has acted to ensure that our children improve their nutritional health.

However, our current standards do not go far enough to protect children’s health because they lack limits on added sugar. Health professionals maintain that school-age children should have less than 26 grams of added sugar per day. On Feb 3, 2023, the USDA proposed updates to school meal guidelines to reduce sugar and sodium intake. SB 348 compliments these new proposed guidelines.

A diet high in sugar increases the risk of many health problems including tooth decay, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. High sugar intake among children is also associated with poor behavioral outcomes and reduced memory capacity.

Serving freshly grown & prepared healthy school meals is increasingly attainable not only because of new funding for scratch-cooking in schools but also because the food industry has responded to extensive calls for healthy options by producing healthier food.

This bill will increase the likelihood that the two daily meals California’s public school students have access to are the healthiest meal that we can offer. What’s more, SB 348 will help reduce childhood hunger when school is out of session by maximizing federally funded child nutrition benefits.

SOLUTION
SB 348 will improve the health of children by:
- Reducing sugar and salt in school meals.
- Requiring schools to give children adequate time to eat a school meal.
- Allowing for more food to be served to older children when needed.
- Maximizing & expanding upon new federal summer childhood nutrition programs.

SUPPORT
50 Acterra Action for a Healthy Planet
Alchemist CDC
Agricultural Institute of Marin
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Allensworth Progressive Association
Alliance of San Diego
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association (Sponsor)
Anisha I Patel, MD, MSPH, MSHS
Buen Vecino
California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE)
California Alternative Payment Association
California Association of Food Banks (Sponsor)
California Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics
California Chapter of American College of Cardiology

Last Updated 4/21/2023
California Dental Association
California Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
California Food and Farming Network
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Medical Association
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Californians for Pesticide Reform
Center for Food Safety
Ceres Community Project
Changelab Solutions
Chef Ann Foundation
Common Sense Media
Community Action Partnership of Orange County
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
Community Health Councils
Cultiva La Salud
**Dolores Huerta Foundation (Sponsor)**
Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation
**Eat REAL (Sponsor)**
Ecology Center
Faith Action for All
Farm2Poole
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano
Food Bank of Santa Barbara
FoodCorps
Food for the People, the Food Bank of Humboldt County
Food in Need of Distribution
Food Share
Friends Committee on Legislation in California
**Gasol Foundation (Sponsor)**
Glide
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Golden State Opportunity
**Grace Institute – End Child Poverty California (Sponsor)**
Hunger Action Los Angeles
Innrecity Struggle
Jakara Movement
Kaiser Permanente
Kitchen Table Advisors
LA Care Health Plan
Los Angeles Food Policy Council
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Marin Food Policy Council
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women
Nextgen California
**No Kid Hungry (Sponsor)**
**Office of Kat Taylor (Sponsor)**
Open Heart Kitchen
Para Los Ninos
Parent Voices California
Pesticide Action Network of North America
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Institutes Center for Wellness and Nutrition
Richards Grassfed Beef
Redwood Food Bank & Family Services
Roots of Change
Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services
Sacramento Food Policy Council
San Diego Food Bank
San Diego Hunger Coalition
Santa Clara County School Boards Association
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
San Mateo Food System Alliance
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
Second Harvest of the Greater Valley
Share our Strength
SLO Food Bank
SPUR
SSG/API Forward Movement
**State Superintendent of Public Instruction**
**Tony Thurmond (Sponsor)**
Stemple Creek Ranch
TCC Family Health
The Praxis Project
Tomkat Ranch
Union of Concerned Scientists
Vecinos Unidos Arvin
Vecinos Unidos Bakersfield
Vecinos Unidos California City
Vecinos Unidos Lamont
Vecinos Unidos Lindsay
Vecinos Unidos Parlier
Vecinos Unidos Sanger
Vecinos Unidos Woodlake
Women’s Foundation of California

Last Updated 4/21/2023
CONTACT

Jessica Bartholow
Office of Senator Nancy Skinner
(916) 651-4009 | jessica.bartholow@sen.ca.gov

Josh Wright
Office of Senator Nancy Skinner
(916) 651-4009 | josh.wright@sen.ca.gov