



Nutrition and Economic Assistance State Legislation Dashboard

Data Documentation

August 2023

Data

This dashboard includes two types of data fields:

- (1) Those based on custom coding schemes used to manually code bills for relevant policy information; and
- (2) Other data fields as directly extracted from the legislative tracking software Quorum.¹

All bills included in the dashboard were identified in Quorum using a series of search terms and included based on their relevance to policy areas of interest to Share Our Strength. Each included bill was coded by Share Our Strength policy staff based on custom coding schemes developed and programmed in Quorum (see “Coding Schemes”). The other dashboard fields reflect data as obtained through Quorum (see “Other Dashboard Fields”).

The dashboard includes legislation from all 50 states and the District of Columbia that was introduced in 2011 and later. In some instances, visualizations rely on grouped data. Bill profiles always include the underlying data as obtained through Quorum.

*Note: for visualizations, bill status is grouped as **enacted** or **introduced**. Use of the term “introduced” is used to denote any bills that has not been enacted; it does not necessarily imply that the bill is active.*

New bills will be added to the dashboard on an ongoing basis. Data will refresh update daily when most states are in during state legislative sessions (January - May), and weekly during other times of the year.

¹ <https://www.quorum.us/about/>

Coding Schemes

Coding schemes were developed to manually code bills based on the (1) policy area addressed in the bill and (2) other policy components, such as funding type. Schemes were developed based on landscape analyses of state legislation, literature review, and internal and external stakeholder consultation. *Note: New coding schemes will be added to this document as new policy areas are included to the dashboard.*

1. Policy Areas

The dashboard includes a three-tiered hierarchy of policy information:

- **Policy Area** – A general area of child nutrition policy that includes one or more **policy types** that are topically similar. Policy areas are denoted by the tabs at the top of the dashboard and include:
 - o No-Cost School Meals - includes bills that expand individual eligibility for no-cost meals and those that allow all students to [access no-cost meals](#) by expanding participation in the [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#) and/or by providing Healthy School Meals for All (HSM4A). *In this dashboard, bills categorized as “Healthy School Meals for All” or “HSM4A” require most or all schools, or schools serving specific grades, to offer at least one meal daily at no cost to all students during one full school year and/or provide state funding to allow all students to access at least one meal daily at no cost for a full school year. Bills categorized as “Expand CEP” directly or indirectly promote participation in CEP and/or increasing reimbursement to districts/schools. Some bills include provisions that expand CEP and provide HSM4A and therefore are included in both categories.*
 - o School Breakfast Programs - includes bills that specifically promote access to school breakfast outside of reducing/eliminating cost, such as requiring a breakfast program, encouraging or requiring Breakfast After the Bell, or redefining instructional time to include time spent eating breakfast.
 - o Child Tax Credit - includes bills that establish or expand [state child tax credits](#), a state tax benefit, separate from the federal Child Tax Credit, for eligible families to help manage the cost of raising children.
- **Policy Type** – The principal aim/goal/function of a policy. Each policy area includes one or more policy types.
- **Policy Approach** – The specific mechanism(s) by which a policy type is operationalized (e.g., establishes a requirement, creates a funding mechanism, etc). Policy types are associated with one or more policy approaches. In most instances, a

policy approach is associated with a single policy type. (The only exception is the “HSM4A/CEP Approach” policy approach is associated with the “Healthy School Meals for All” *and* “Expand CEP” policy types.)

2. Other Policy Components

The dashboard also includes the following basic policy information included in a bill:

- **Funding Type** – Whether the bill includes a mechanism for funding the policy provisions included and what it is (e.g., appropriation, mandatory appropriation).

Policy Area 1: Expanding Access to No-Cost School Meals

Policy Type	Policy Approach	Policy Approach Value
Healthy School Meals for All (HSM4A)	HSM4A/CEP Approach	<p>[Check all that apply/multi-select]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require no-cost meal service <i>(Explicit requirement to make both breakfast and lunch available at no cost to all students either as a condition for participating in a state free/no-cost meals program or otherwise stated as a requirement for defined schools.)</i> • CEP election requirement <i>(Explicit requirement to elect the federal Community Eligibility Provision based on eligibility or specific Identified Student Percentage.)</i> • Maximize federal funds <i>(Requirement/directive to schools/districts to maximize participation and/or federal reimbursement, or to “maximize access to federal funds” as a condition of state funding or otherwise.)</i> • Establish state funding mechanism <i>(Funding mechanism that enables the state funds to cover costs associated with providing meals to students at no cost, which may include a state reimbursement requirement and/or appropriation to support reimbursement and/or establishing a specific state fund to facilitate such reimbursements.)</i> • Notification, Outreach, or TA requirement
Expand CEP		

		<p><i>(e.g., require state administering agency to notify districts/local education agencies if they have CEP eligible schools in their jurisdiction; require state administering agency to provide technical assistance to schools or districts/LEAs for the purposes of meeting requirements for participating in CEP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting requirement <i>(For state administering agency and/or schools/districts, which may include requiring a district/LEA with CEP eligible, non-participating schools under its jurisdiction to submit a report to the state administering agency detailing specific reasons for not electing CEP; or requiring the state administering agency to regularly report on HSM4A and/or CEP implementation)</i> • Improve direct certification <i>(e.g., require the state administering agency to apply to USDA to participate in the Medicaid demonstration pilot program; require the state administering agency to promulgate rules related to SNAP promotion among students)</i> • Task Force, Committee, or commissioned study <i>(Establishment of entity or requiring an existing entity to study school meal programs and/or HSM4A and CEP, or requiring an entity with a broader mandate, such as a poverty task force or food system council, to incorporate HSM4A/CEP into its inquiry and recommendations)</i> • Exemption or opt-out mechanism(s) <i>(Explicit mechanisms by which schools/districts can opt-out or be exempted from one or more requirements in the bill (e.g., CEP election requirement), such as allowing schools to apply for a waiver due to “financial hardship”)</i> • Student economic status method <i>(Some action to explore, identify, and/or implement a way to identify student’s economic status, typically for state education funding purposes, that is not directly reliant on school meal applications.)</i>
Expand Individual Eligibility for Free Meals	Eligibility Threshold	<p>[Mutually exclusive]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 185% of the Federal Poverty Level • >185% of the Federal Poverty Level
	Meals Covered by Expanded	<p>[Mutually exclusive]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch

	Meal Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast and Lunch
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Policy Area 2: Child Tax Credit

Policy Type	Policy Approach	Policy Approach Value
Child Tax Credit	New Credit	<p>[Mutually exclusive]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Credit • Modification of Existing Program • Other <p>For visualization, grouped as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Credit • Modification of Existing Program or Other
	Refundability	<p>[Mutually exclusive]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refundable • Partially Refundable • Non-refundable <p>For visualization, grouped as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refundable • Partially Refundable or Non-refundable
	Monthly Payment	<p>[Mutually exclusive]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
	ITIN Eligibility	<p>[Mutually exclusive]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
	Credit Value	[Text/Numerical (\$)]

		<p>For visualization, grouped as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max value \geq \$500 • Max value $<$ \$500 <p>Original data displayed on bill profile pages.</p>
	Age Eligibility	<p>[Text]</p> <p>For visualization, grouped as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children \leq 5 years old • Children $>$ 5 years old <p>Original data displayed on bill profile pages.</p>
	Phaseout	<p>[Text]</p> <p>For visualization, grouped as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max credit available to families earning \geq \$60,000 • Max credit available to families earning $<$ \$60,000 <p>Original data displayed on bill profile pages.</p>
	Other Bill Information	<p>[Text]</p> <p>Data displayed only on bill profile pages.</p>

Policy Area 3: School Breakfast

Policy Type	Policy Approach	Policy Approach Value
Redefining Instructional Time	Maximum number of minutes specified?	[Text/String value] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number if specified (“not specified” if the bill does not specify the amount of time)
Require a breakfast program	Breakfast Program Requirement Applicability (<i>i.e. what percentage of students qualify for free and reduced-price meals</i>)	[Text/String value] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage specified (“all schools” if requirement is for all schools)
Encourage or Require Breakfast after the Bell	BAB Approaches	[Check all that apply/multi-select] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAB requirement (<i>Require schools to implement a BAB program based on the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals.</i>) Maximize breakfast participation through BAB (<i>Direct schools/districts to maximize breakfast participation through one or more BAB approaches.</i>) Funding (<i>Allocates funding to support BAB implementation (e.g., grants or appropriation for BAB program)</i>) Agency guidance or procedures (<i>Requires state agency to promulgate rules, develop guidance or procedures, or other similar action to further specify BAB implementation processes for schools/districts.</i>) Data collection and/or reporting (<i>Require state administering agency or schools/districts to collect data and/or report on BAB implementation.</i>)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally recognize or encourage BAB (e.g., through a resolution) • Waiver or opt-out for BAB requirement (Explicit mechanisms by which schools/districts can opt-out or be exempted from the BAB requirement.)
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Funding

Field	Detail	Values
Funding	Does the bill provide for specific funding to support the policy of interest?	[Check all that apply; multi-select] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriation • Mandatory Appropriation • Dedicated Revenue • None

Other Dashboard Fields

All other dashboard fields are based on data extracted from Quorum. They include:

Variable	Detail	Values
Details		
State	The state whose legislature introduced the bill.	Geographic
Bill Number	Bill's type and number (e.g., H.B.1234)	String
Title	The bill's primary display title, including its number (e.g., H.B.1234: School Breakfast Programs)	String
Bill Status	Status of the bill within the legislative process.	Categorical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced Enacted
Source	Hyperlink to the original source text of the bill.	URL
Timeline		
Date Introduced	Date (mm/dd/yyyy) when bill was introduced	Date
Last Timeline Action	Last specific action taken by the legislature on the bill	String
Last Timeline Action Date	Date of the last timeline action (mm/dd/yyyy)	Date
Effective Date	Date (mm/dd/yyyy) when the bill becomes effective. Included when specified in the bill.	Date
End of Session	Date (mm/dd/yyyy) denoting end of state legislative session.	Date
Sponsorship		
Primary Party	Party of the bill's primary sponsor.	Categorical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Republican

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democrat • Non-designate
Number of sponsors	Total number of sponsors of the bill.	Integer
Number of co-sponsors	Total number of co-sponsors of the bill.	Integer
Number of Republican co-sponsors	Total number of Republican co-sponsors of the bill.	Integer
Number of Democratic co-sponsors	Total number of Democratic co-sponsors of the bill.	Integer