

## HR 5223

### School MEALS Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Sep 10, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. (Sep 10, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5223>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 10, 2021

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2663	Related bill	Aug 5, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## **School Modernization and Efficient Access to Lunches for Students Act of 2021 or the School MEALS Act of 2021**

This bill establishes programs and revises requirements relating to direct certification processes for the National School Lunch Program. Direct certification allows schools to use data matching procedures to approve school meals without the need for applications for children who receive assistance under other programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program).

Specifically, the bill directs the Department of Agriculture to provide grants and technical assistance for states and tribal organizations to improve their direct certification processes, including with respect to children who receive assistance under a food distribution program on Indian reservations.

The bill also expands the time frame for schools to elect and gather eligibility data for the Community Eligibility Provision that permits schools in high-poverty areas to serve free meals to all enrolled students without the need for applications.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Sep 10, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 10, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.