

HR 5407

School MEALS Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Sep 12, 2023

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

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. (Sep 12, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5407>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • State: CT • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Sep 12, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 12, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 2772	Identical bill	Sep 12, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## **School Modernization and Efficient Access to Lunches for Students Act of 2023 or the School MEALS Act of 2023**

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).

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.

Further, the bill specifies that a state subject to a continuous improvement plan (for not directly certifying at least 95% of children eligible for direct certification because they receive SNAP benefits) must implement the improvement measures within three years.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Sep 12, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 12, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.