

HEALTHY UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS FOR CHILDREN ACT (SB4)

SENATOR MICHAEL PADILLA



VOTE YES ON SB4

Vote yes on SB4 to send a clear message that all New Mexico children deserve equitable access to free, nutritious meals while at school. Lead the way and do right by the next generation - while becoming one of the first states to set this policy in stone.

Less than \$100 per student each year makes all the difference

A **\$32 million** investment will ensure higher quality, healthy meals for more than 309,000 New Mexico children making sure that hunger and nutrition are never again a barrier to learning.

For more than 80% of school-age children in New Mexico, school breakfast and school lunch provide as much as half of their daily calories. While New Mexico's food insecurity rates have seen nationally leading decreases, 1 in 5 children continues to have limited or uncertain access to healthy, high-quality food.

BENEFITS TO NEW MEXICO

- **Boost learning and improve health outcomes.**
- **Eliminate the cost burden of families**
- **Eliminate the impact of unpaid school meal debt on schools & school districts.**
- **Generate economic investment in NM agriculture**



SB4 will protect the right of every child – regardless of income or circumstance – to healthy, no-cost school meals.

SOME KEY PROVISIONS INCLUDE:



Requiring public school districts and charter schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students attending schools that operate the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.



Setting meal quality improvement requirements that are tied to a performance-based reimbursement to incentivize healthier meals for all New Mexico students.



Creating an additional funding opportunity for the purchase of New Mexico grown, raised, or processed agricultural products.



Requiring at least 20 minutes of seated lunch time each day for students in grades K-5 so young students have enough time to eat.



Requiring that all schools rescue, repurpose and donate food that would otherwise go to waste.



KID'S KITCHENS FUNDING PACKAGE OVERVIEW

The Kid's Kitchens multi-pronged program will require \$30 million annually to cover the cost of paid meals in all New Mexico schools. Additional elements will utilize a combination of recurring, non-recurring, and capital funding to address critical infrastructure needs statewide.

Healthy Universal School Meals	\$30 million, recurring
New Mexico Grown for Schools	\$2 million, non-recurring
School Kitchen Improvement	\$20 million, capital
School Nutrition Training and Workforce Development	\$400 thousand, recurring & non-recurring
Total Cost in FY24	\$52.4 million



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOOD INITIATIVE

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