

Republicans' Plan to Give **Tax Cuts to Billionaires and Corporations** Will Limit Access to School Meals and Nutrition Programs

Republicans' extreme cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will negatively impact children's access to school meal programs and threaten food security for millions of families. Here is how.

Background

Through a process known as direct certification, children are directly certified for free or reduced-price school meals if their household participates in SNAP. And, in most states, a household's participation in Medicaid also directly certifies children for free or reduced-price school meals.

Medicaid and SNAP participation allow millions of low-income students to be certified for free or reduced-price school meals without forcing families or schools to deal with additional and burdensome paperwork. **Around [15.6 million kids](#) are able to be directly certified for free or reduced-price meals because their families participate in SNAP, Medicaid, or meet other federal criteria.**

If a certain percentage of students in a school or school district live in a household that participates in federal programs, such as SNAP and often Medicaid, schools and districts can take advantage of the "Community Eligibility Provision" (CEP) and serve free meals to all children. Nearly [50,000 schools](#) currently use this option to serve free meals to all kids.

How Republicans Are Limiting Access to School and Summer Meals

If a family loses SNAP or Medicaid because of Republican cuts, that means kids could also lose direct access to free or reduced-price school meals. Additionally, fewer students directly certified through SNAP or Medicaid also means fewer schools will qualify for CEP.

Making matters worse, Republicans' cuts to SNAP and Medicaid will reduce participation in the Summer EBT program, which supports over [20 million kids](#) and prevents them from going hungry in the summer. SNAP and Medicaid cuts could also limit access to nutritious food and health services through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which also relies on similar automatic eligibility processes.

More of a visual learner?

Here is a chart that shows how cuts to Medicaid and SNAP translate into less access to school meals, summer grocery benefits, and WIC services.

