

Don't Make Hunger a School Choice • AB 1871 (Bonta)



California charter schools are **public schools**

that enroll

1 in 10

CA public school students,
including

340,000+
students

whose families are struggling
to make ends meet.

NONE
are guaranteed
access to
school meals.

Opportunity

All students deserve equitable access to the basic resources that support their success, including school meals. More than 340,000 low-income public school students attend California charter schools. **Unlike all other low-income public school students in California, they are not granted the right to nutritious, affordable school meals.**

In 1975, during his very first year as governor, Jerry Brown signed a law to protect children from hunger by guaranteeing that all low-income public school students would have access to at least one free or low-cost school meal each school day.

Charter school students are not protected under this law.

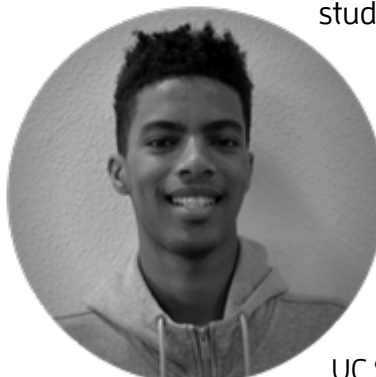
Since authorized by the State in 1992, charter schools have grown rapidly throughout California. Like all public schools, charter schools are entitled to state and federal funds to operate school meal programs.

Legislative Action

Guarantee that all low-income public school students, including charter school students, have access to at least one nutritious, free or low-cost school meal each school day.

Why This Matters

Charter schools are intended to expand choice in public education and, by law, are open to all students, including low-income students. School meals are a critical resource for all students in need, whichever public school they attend. California should not make hunger a school choice.



"Everyone deserves to have equal opportunities and by having free or low-cost meals, everyone does."

Mussa Adam, Charter School Graduate
UC San Diego Youth Advisory Council