

AB 842 (Limón)

Hunger-Free Preschool and Child Care



“**Help us help our children build a strong foundation.**

Diana Quiroga
Diana's Daycare

The Opportunity

Wherever a child attends school, they need access to the basic resources that support their success, including nutritious food. Recognizing this, California passed a law in 1975 to protect children from hunger by guaranteeing that all eligible, low-income K-12th grade public school students would have access to at least one free or low-cost meal each school day. That same year, the legislature also established state supplemental meal funding to help school districts meet this requirement. Today, most preschool and child care providers are excluded from the funding and low-income children in public preschool and subsidized child care remain the only public school students not guaranteed access to a nutritious, affordable meal.

The Ask



- 1.) Ensure that all eligible, low-income public school students - including our youngest learners - are provided a nutritious, free or low-cost meal during each program day while attending preschool or child care at a public school or California State Preschool Program.
- 2.) Expand state supplemental meal funding to adequately compensate all preschool and child care providers for serving healthy meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program to low-income children.

Why Now

Young children need food to grow, to develop, and to be healthy. But nearly one quarter of California's families can't afford to meet their basic needs. As the state expands access to preschool and child care, we need to make sure the basic needs of low-income families are front and center: whether in preschool or child care, low-income children need access to healthy meals. The state can help build the capacity of our early care and education system to prevent hunger, break the cycle of poverty, and help close the achievement gap by supporting policies and investments that increase access to healthy meals for our youngest learners.

#HungerFreePreschool #FundFoodWithCare #HungerFreeEarlyCare

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