



Universal Free Meals For All

Our Goal is for all Delaware students participating in the National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to receive Healthy School meals at no cost.



What are the benefits of Free Meals for all?

Reduction in food insecurity for children and families

- *One in seven children in DE face hunger.*
- *Food Insecurity contributes to issues in the classroom such as lack of participation, inattentiveness, disruptive behavior. Food Insecurity can lead to anxiety and depression.*
- *Food security at school can result in increased attendance rates, improved student achievement, and reduced behavioral issues.*



Providing access to healthy school meals to all Delaware students can

- *Improve overall health;*
- *Remove stigma associated with students who receive free meals;*
- *Reduce household spending on groceries, allowing families to allocate funds towards other necessities.*



Reduce or Eliminate debt for districts/schools

- *During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in Delaware offered meals to all students at no cost.*
- *Families grew accustomed to receiving school meals at no cost, without the need to submit a meal benefit form. Because of this, many families have not completed or were not aware that they needed to complete a meal benefit form this school year.*
- *Now that meals are no longer available at no cost many districts are dealing with ballooning meal debt.*
- *School nutrition programs in Delaware do not meal-shame children. Students are still provided a hot meal, but school nutrition programs are accumulating an ever-growing meal debt.*
- *Healthy school meals for all students will alleviate this debt.*