

# 2025 White Paper

The California School Nutrition Association (CSNA) would like to continue to express our gratitude for continuing to support School Meals for All in California. Districts across the state have continued to see an improvement in the attendance, achievement and overall well being of the students we serve.

**CSNA Supports the [Governor's Proposed Budget](#) for School Nutrition** - We are grateful for the addition of another round of Kitchen Infrastructure and Training money. The first two rounds have been extremely beneficial for school districts to train staff and modernize kitchens to increase freshly prepared meals for students. Along with the proposed budget increases, we will be able to ensure that all students in California continue to receive two free meals when they are at school.

**Kitchen Infrastructure and Training**—\$150 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for specialized kitchen equipment, infrastructure, and training to support schools in providing more freshly prepared meals made with locally grown ingredients.

**Nutrition**—\$106.3 million in additional ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to fully fund the universal school meals program in 2025-26.

**Governor's Executive Order N-1-25** on "[Ultra-Processed Foods](#)" - CSNA looks forward to partnering with the Administration to help craft a definition for Ultra-Processed Foods. We feel a definition will help bring clarification for Nutrition Directors, School Districts and our manufacturing partners. There may be some concerns regarding the deadline for changing products because manufacturers are in the process of reformulating now to meet the 2027 deadline for the current USDA meal pattern, but we look forward to working with the Governor to address any obstacles to continue to provide even tastier, healthier meals to our students.

## Key Legislation

### [Senate Bill 225 \(McNerney\)](#) - School Nutrition: Guardian Meal Reimbursement

CSNA supports the intent of SB 225 as we never want anyone to be hungry. We greatly appreciate there is an appropriation attached to the bill as our current federal and state allocations will not cover the cost of the additional meals and additional costs could put our students' meals in jeopardy. While we remain concerned about cost and capacity, due to conversations at the federal level, as well as our existing staffing shortages, we are hopeful these issues will be resolved as the bill moves through the process.

### [Senate Bill 411 \(Pérez\)](#) - The Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025

CSNA supports SB 411 moving forward through the process. We look forward to working with the author and CDE to address potential conflicts with current state and federal program requirements, including the possible need for a federal waiver.

### [Assembly Bill 1264 \(Gabriel\)](#) - Pupil Nutrition: Ultra-Processed Food

CSNA agrees with the need to remove ultra-processed food from school meals to the greatest extent possible and is working with the author to ensure that the timelines and reporting requirements are doable and within the capacity of child nutrition programs and school meal vendors. (Particularly our small business partners!)

For more information or questions, please contact:

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