

The Summer Meals Act of 2014

Introduced by Reps. Rick Larsen, WA-02, and Don Young, AK

The Summer Meals Act of 2014 is a bipartisan bill designed to fight child hunger by expanding access to summer meals and snacks.

Millions of children rely on meals at school, according to the [Food Research and Action Center](#). The Act ensures kids have nutritious meals year-round, particularly when they are most vulnerable to hunger – summer, weekends and after school hours. And it streamlines requirements for organizations that provide critical educational and nutritional programs, increasing the impact for children and communities.

The Act accomplishes four main goals:

1. **Better integrating summer education and summer meals programs.** Currently, 50 percent of children in communities must be eligible for free or reduced lunch for organizations in the area to part of the federal Summer Meals Program. The Act changes that threshold to 40 percent, allowing more communities with a substantial population of low-income children to serve kids meals during the summertime.
2. **Reducing red tape for public-private partnerships.** The Act allows private organizations that already provide school meals to offer summer meal programs without having to submit more paperwork. Schools can provide meals during the summer through the National School Lunch Program. This bill will allow private organizations to submit one application for meal programs offered during and outside of school hours. And it covers additional meals and snacks during after school hours, weekends and holidays.
3. **Improving nutrition in underserved, hard-to-reach areas.** In the summertime, getting to educational programs that serve food can be challenging for children and families in rural areas. The Act provides support for organizations to offer transportation to children, as well as encouraging innovative ways to reach kids, such as mobile meal trucks.
4. **Recognizing nutritional needs do not end with the school bell rings.** Some kids spend their whole day at school while their parents are working. The Act allows schools and other organizations serving children to offer three meals per day, or two meals and a snack.

For more information about the Summer Meals Act of 2014, contact Ingrid Stegemoeller in Rep. Larsen's office, (202) 225-2605, or Matt Shuckerow in Rep. Young's office, (202) 225-5765.