

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Corey Jackson
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Senate Bill 348 (Skinner) Nutritious School Meals for Every California Student - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Muratsuchi and Chairman Jackson,

Common Sense supports SB 348 (Skinner), which would ensure that public school students who are served free meals through California's new universal school meal program are served meals that meet sugar and sodium standards recommended by leading child health experts.

Since 2009, [Common Sense Education](#) has offered free, research-backed, and award-winning resources for students, teachers, and school communities. We're working at every level to build a more healthy, equitable, and empowering future for all kids from youth mental health to safe technology use to child well being. We believe that every school student deserves the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive – and California must lead by ensuring our kids have access to nutritious food.

With our abundance of freshly grown food, California must now lead the nation by ensuring those meals contain the nutrients our children need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. A diet high in added sugar and sodium content increases the risk of many health problems for children: diabetes, digestive issues, and a heightened risk of heart attack and stroke. Nutrition standards guiding sugar and sodium levels in school meals do not currently exist in California and the insufficient time children have to eat at school encourages students to choose foods higher in sugar, fat, and salt.

SB 348 (Skinner) will:

- Provide students with adequate time to eat at school
- Support schools' ability to meet the universal school meal mandate, even on half-days
- Allow a second entree to be served to children when nutritionally appropriate
- Require the state to maximize newly available federal Summer EBT child nutrition benefits

For the above reasons, we respectfully request your "Aye" vote on SB 348.

Sincerely,



Kami Peer
CA Policy Manager, Common Sense Media