

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9448

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve program requirements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. KUSTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve program requirements, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “School Hunger Elim-

5 nation Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL MEDICAID DIRECT CERTIFICATION.**

7 Section 9(b)(15) of the Richard B. Russell National

8 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(15)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the
3 following:

4 “(i) ELIGIBLE CHILD.—

5 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘el-
6 igible child’ means a child who—

7 “(aa)(AA) is eligible for and
8 receiving medical assistance
9 under the Medicaid program; and

10 “(BB) is a member of a
11 family with an income as meas-
12 ured by the Medicaid program
13 that does not exceed, in the case
14 of eligibility for free meals, 133
15 percent of the poverty line (as
16 defined in section 673(2) of the
17 Community Services Block Grant
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)), includ-
19 ing any revision required by such
20 section) applicable to a family of
21 the size used for purposes of de-
22 termining eligibility for the Med-
23 icaid program, or, in the case of
24 eligibility for reduced price meals,
25 the applicable family size income

1 level under the income eligibility
2 guidelines for reduced price
3 meals; or

4 “(bb) is a member of a
5 household (as that term is de-
6 fined in section 245.2 of title 7,
7 Code of Federal Regulations (or
8 a successor regulation)) with a
9 child described in item (aa).

10 “(II) OTHER CHILDREN.—The
11 term ‘eligible child’ includes a child
12 who is eligible for and receiving med-
13 ical assistance under the Medicaid
14 program under subclause (I) of sec-
15 tion 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) of the Social
16 Security Act (42 U.S.C.
17 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i))—

18 “(aa) on the basis of receiv-
19 ing aid or assistance under the
20 State plan approved under part
21 E of title IV of that Act (42
22 U.S.C. 670 et seq.);

23 “(bb) by reason of section
24 473(b) of that Act (42 U.S.C.
25 673(b)); or

1 “(cc) under subclause (II) of
 2 section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) of that
 3 Act (42 U.S.C.
 4 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)).”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(iii) WITHOUT FURTHER APPLICA-
 7 TION.—The term ‘without further applica-
 8 tion’ has the meaning given the term in
 9 paragraph (4)(G).”; and

10 (2) by striking subparagraphs (B) through (H)
 11 and inserting the following:

12 “(B) AGREEMENT.—For the school year
 13 beginning on July 1, 2025, and each school
 14 year thereafter, each State shall enter into an
 15 agreement described in subparagraph (C) with
 16 the 1 or more State agencies conducting eligi-
 17 bility determinations for the Medicaid program.

18 “(C) PROCEDURES.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to sub-
 20 paragraph (D) and paragraph (6), an
 21 agreement entered into under subpara-
 22 graph (B) shall establish procedures under
 23 which an eligible child shall be certified as
 24 eligible, without further application, for—

1 “(I) free or reduced price lunch
2 under this Act; and

3 “(II) free or reduced price break-
4 fast under section 4 of the Child Nu-
5 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

6 “(ii) FREE MEALS.—Each agreement
7 entered into under subparagraph (B) shall
8 ensure that a child who is simultaneously
9 eligible for reduced price meals under this
10 paragraph or based on an income eligibility
11 determination, and for free meals based on
12 documentation provided under subsection
13 (d)(2), shall be certified for free meals.

14 “(D) CERTIFICATION.—Subject to para-
15 graph (6), and according to an agreement en-
16 tered into under subparagraph (B), the local
17 educational agency conducting eligibility deter-
18 minations under that agreement shall certify an
19 eligible child as eligible, without further applica-
20 tion, for—

21 “(i) free or reduced price lunch under
22 this Act; and

23 “(ii) free or reduced price breakfast
24 under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act
25 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).”.

1 **SEC. 3. DIRECT CERTIFICATION FOR CHILDREN RECEIVING**
 2 **SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(b)(5) of the Richard B.
 4 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
 5 1758(b)(5)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(2));”
 7 and inserting “(2));”;

8 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or” at
 9 the end;

10 (3) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking the pe-
 11 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

12 (4) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(F) a child who receives supplemental se-
 14 curity income payments under title XVI of the
 15 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).”.

16 (b) DATA FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRA-
 17 TION.—Section 9(b) of the Richard B. Russell National
 18 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)) is amended by add-
 19 ing at the end the following:

20 “(16) DATA FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINIS-
 21 TRATION.—In the case of direct certification under
 22 paragraph (5) or (12)(A) of a child who receives
 23 supplemental security income payments under title
 24 XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et
 25 seq.), the Commissioner of Social Security shall pro-
 26 vide a local educational agency with the data nec-

1 essary to certify the child in accordance with a data-
2 sharing agreement between the Commissioner and
3 the State in which the local educational agency is lo-
4 cated.”.

○