

Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Name

Christy Shaver

Agenda Item

IV. Action on Department of Education operating budget request for fiscal biennium 2027-2029

Position

Comments only

Written Testimony

Write Testimony

I respectfully urge the Board of Education to include funding for free school meals for all public school students in its 2027–2029 biennium budget request. Thousands of hardworking families are currently ineligible for free school meals, leaving their children at risk of going hungry during the school day.

Free school meals reduces hunger and improves achievement scores. Providing universal access to nutritious breakfast and lunch would decrease food insecurity and ease the financial burden of working families struggling to manage rising grocery prices.

Reject the DOE’s proposed revisions to BOE Policy 303-11, which would allow the superintendent to raise student prices, including free school meals, without Board of Education approval.. Raising fees hurt working families and these decisions need to have public accountability and input..

No child should have to learn on an empty stomach and no family should have to choose between paying for school meals and meeting other basic needs. Please make free school meals a funding priority and call on lawmakers to ensure that every student enters the classroom healthy and ready to learn.