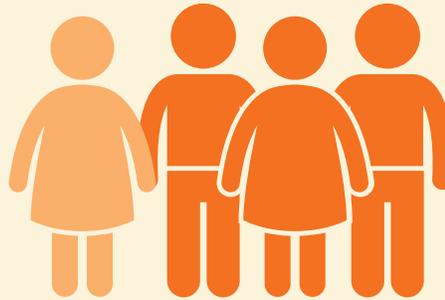


## Summer Brings Risk of Hunger for Children

California kids need year-round access to healthy, affordable meals. In California:



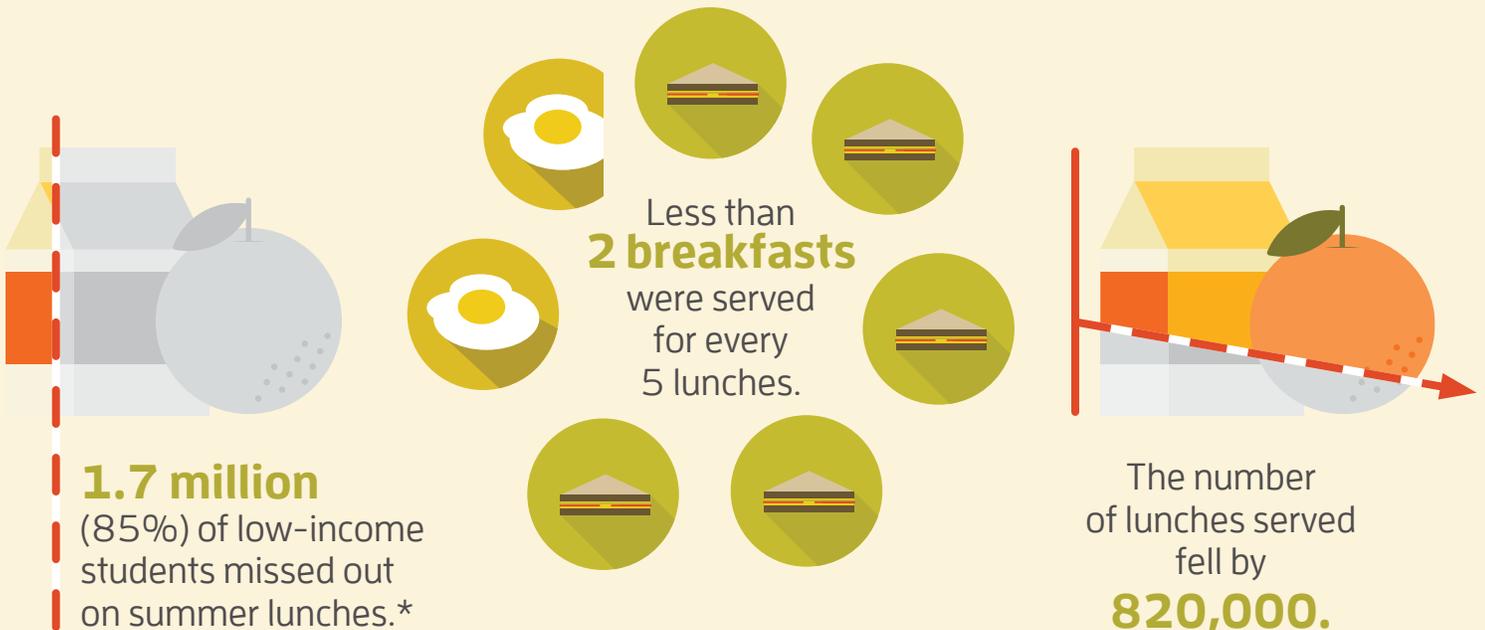
Over **2 million** children live in households that struggle to put enough food on the table.



Nearly **1 in 4** kids may go to bed hungry.

Children can get free or reduced-price meals over the summer months at school and community sites. Many of these summer meal sites also provide academic, physical or social activities that keep children active, engaged and learning.

### Yet, during summer 2016...



\*These are children that benefit from free and reduced-price lunches during the school year but miss out on similar lunches during the summer.

These summer statistics refer to free and reduced-price meals.

For more information see *School's Out...Who Ate?* at: [cfpa.net/sowa-2017](http://cfpa.net/sowa-2017).



# Summer Meals Support Health and Learning

Summer meal programs provide children with the adequate nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive throughout the summer and when school is back in session.

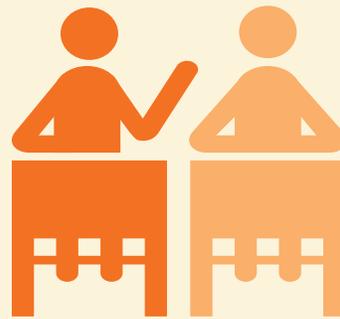
## Summer meal programs:



Shield kids from struggling with hunger



Get children out of the house and staying active



Further student learning



Bring in federal dollars to the state

CFPA recommends the following actions to help keep kids free from hunger over the summer:

### Support Immigrant Families:

→ Immigrant families may be less likely to show up for summer meals due to immigration concerns. Policy solutions that foster safe spaces for these families during the summer should be considered. In the meantime, sponsors and community partners can take action now to promote a welcoming summer meal environment.

### Expand Summer EBT for Children:

→ By expanding Summer EBT for Children, low-income families with children would receive a few extra dollars to support tightened grocery budgets during the summer months. This is especially important for families who do not live near a summer meal site or have transportation issues.

### Protect Expanded Learning Programs:

→ Expanded learning programs provide academic and enrichment opportunities for high-need students, support working families, and keep kids safe and well-nourished during the summer and after school.

### Elevate the Role of Nutrition for Academic Success:

→ Healthy and well-nourished children are more likely to attend class, be ready to learn, stay engaged, and perform well in school. The state's flexible education spending structure allows districts to support summer meal programs to improve the health and academic outcomes of students.

**For more information:** see *School's Out...Who Ate?* at: [cfpa.net/sowa-2017](http://cfpa.net/sowa-2017).



California  
Food Policy  
Advocates

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is a statewide public policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food.

Find a summer meal site at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites.asp>.

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