



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Ohio Children's Caucus to Address How Universal School Meals Help Students Thrive**

*In 2023, one out of every six Ohio children lived in a household facing hunger, according to Children's Defense Fund-Ohio.*

COLUMBUS, OH — On Monday, members of the Ohio General Assembly and [Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus](#) will receive expert testimony on why universal school meals are important and how they have worked to help young people in the state thrive.

**What:** Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus Meeting: *Universal School Meals Help Students Thrive*

**When:** 2:00 p.m., Monday, November 18

**Who:** Brigadier General Lance Talmage, M.D., United States Army (Retired)

Lisa Quigley, Director, Solving Hunger, Tusk Philanthropies

Alexi Donovan, Vice President, Tarrance Group Polling firm

**Where:** This meeting will be via Zoom. Please contact Dr. Stanford to obtain the link information.

The school meals discussion will take place during the caucus' virtual November meeting. Attendees will listen to perspective from Brigadier General Lance Talmage as well as representatives from Tusk Philanthropies and The Tarrance Group. The meeting comes as Ohio General Assembly members consider the impact of school meals on the health and educational outcomes of Ohio's students.

One in six Ohio children, and as many as one in four children in certain counties, live in a household that faces hunger—that's 413,000 kids across the state. Yet, more than one in three kids that live in a food insecure household do not qualify for school meals, according to a [2023 report](#) from Children's Defense Fund-Ohio named, "**School Meals Support Ohio Student Health and Learning.**"

"Ensuring kids get healthy food is a critical step on the path out of poverty and into the workforce. When you have stronger, smarter, healthier kids, you have a stronger, smarter, healthier, more economically competitive state," the CDF-Ohio report reads. "This is good for Ohio."

Universal school meals are an important tool in addressing hunger, the overall wellness of Ohio's children, and improving educational outcomes for children by using the strategy of educating the whole child in Ohio's classrooms. We know the difference school meals can make for Ohio's children, their families, and their communities.

***Video recording will be made available for media upon request.***

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