Close the Summer Hunger Gap in Texas

When school is out in the summertime, 2,418,669 children in Texas who rely on the school breakfast and lunch programs no longer have access to meal assistance. Across Feeding America’s national network, food banks have experienced an increase in demand during the summer months, serving many more children than during the school year. In Texas, only 9% of children eating free or reduced price lunch during the school year access a summer feeding program, leaving too many children unserved.

Source: Food assistance program data is from the USDA 2018. Area-eligibility data (census tracts with 50% or more of children eligible) from ACS 2017 5-year estimates. Kids without access to a summer site calculated by the number of eligible children living more than 10 miles away from an SFSP site.

TEXAS NEEDS CONGRESS TO PUSH FOR A STRONG CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act provides an important opportunity to strengthen the child feeding programs. Congress can ensure more children can get the meals they need to grow and thrive during out of school times by streamlining summer and after school feeding programs and allowing alternate strategies to reach unserved children. These solutions will enable communities to establish additional after school and summer feeding sites in underserved areas and give the flexibility needed to reach kids in alternate ways.

Questions? Contact policy@feedingamerica.org