



What Others are Saying About Access to Proper Nutrition Equals College Success: Making CalFresh Work for Students

“This report is a stark reminder that there is more work to be done to address student food insecurity on college campuses,” **said Senator**

Padilla. “Improving food security and meeting basic needs are critical in ensuring that higher education opportunities remain accessible for all. That’s why I’m proud to lead efforts in Congress like the *Student Food Security Act* and *BASIC Act* to expand college students' eligibility for nutrition assistance benefits, and help put food on the table for those who need it most.”

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)

“Breaking down barriers to higher education extends far beyond making college affordable, especially for first-generation students and students of color,” said **Congressman Jimmy Gomez.** “If we ignore the hunger crisis on campuses nationwide, we are setting this generation of students up for failure. That’s why I introduced the EATS Act, so no student should ever have to choose between a meal and their education. My bill would eliminate work-for-food barriers and expand SNAP eligibility to college students.”

U.S. Representative Jimmy Gomez

“This new report by the CalFresh Workgroup of the California Student Aid Commission is a call to action. It clearly outlines that food insecurity among California’s college students is ongoing and has only been exacerbated by the pandemic,” **said Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley.** “The good news is the report provides a blueprint for the actions needed to ensure that food insecure students can easily access CalFresh benefits. Doing so will improve student health and well-being, and help ensure academic success.”

California Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley)

“The CSAC report details what we know – that too many of our college and university students are struggling with food insecurity, and this can be an insurmountable barrier to completing their educations. We also know the COVID-19 pandemic heightened the severity of this issue that especially impacts students from disadvantaged families. We must remove roadblocks

to student success. This report offers solid recommendations to address this particular issue and forcefully reminds us that we must give all young people the opportunity to pursue careers that will secure their futures and benefit everyone.”

California Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno)

“The recommendations made in this report are critical for our students. As someone working with our high school students, it is heartbreaking to see our students who qualify for the K-12 Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program then be abandoned the day they graduate high school and are no longer eligible. Rather than having students go through the cumbersome application process and wait for months to see if they get approved for CalFresh benefits, we must simplify that process and give them a seamless transition so they can receive the support they need to be successful in college.”

Catalina Cifuentes

Chair, California Student Aid Commission

“This report sets the stage for an overdue conversation on how we can best meet our college students' basic needs so they can succeed in higher education. This pandemic has only widened the gaps for students living in poverty. Students need solutions now. This report lays out both long-term goals and immediate fixes to help us break free of all the silos of information and create a more streamlined experience for students seeking support.”

Marlene Garcia

Executive Director

California Student Aid Commission

"No college student on this country should go hungry, yet we know that is too often the reality for students right now. Thankfully, there are proven solutions such as fully leveraging CalFresh, the nation's first line of defense against hunger. We applaud the report for prioritizing action to eliminate the harsh student rule in CalFresh that would level access for students to receive the food assistance they are eligible for and support them to complete their degrees."

Andrew Cheyne

SNAP Deputy Director

Food Research & Action Center

“The recommendations outlined in the CalFresh Workgroup Report will help educators effectively address the barriers to students’ basic needs at our institutions. By being unapologetic in breaking barriers, faculty and staff can promote student success equitably for all students and break down the institutional silos that have impeded innovation and progress.”

Keith Curry

President, Compton College

CEO, Compton Community College District

“Coupled with enrollment drops in the double digits throughout California Community Colleges, this report makes it clear that for far too long policy makers have neglected our future workforce. Our students should not have to choose food over education, a reality that nearly 30% of our students at Southwestern College have indicated. Today, we now have county CalFresh Eligibility workers on-site and later this month our students will be able to use EBT cards on campus. It’s a start but doing nothing is no longer an option. The CSAC report provides clear solutions to help food insecure college students access the CalFresh Program.”

Leticia Cazares

President, Board of Trustees
Southwestern Community College District

"As a college student I didn't know anything about CalFresh until joining this workgroup. CSAC worked hard to understand why so many students are facing food insecurity and how we can fix this and provide more resources towards their basic necessities. I encourage you all to read how CSAC was able to find what issues within CalFresh made it harder to obtain as well as how the workgroup plans to make the program more equitable."

Jasmine Prasad

Vice President of Legislative Affairs
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

“We value our partnership with CalFresh on our campus, because as we meet student basic needs, we can help to ensure student success and completion. The CSAC report offers a long overdue set of recommendations that provide a roadmap for state and federal policy leaders to implement to address the college hunger crisis.”

Dr. Jamillah Moore

Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
San Francisco State University