

Hunger Solutions and Legal Services Advocacy Project have worked in partnership to address lunch shaming since 2011. In 2014, Minnesota passed some of the first legislation in the country addressing the problem of school lunch shaming. Despite the anti-shaming language in the law, we have continued to learn of school districts that employ practices that are demeaning and embarrassing to students including:

- Having meals dumped
- Being given a substitute meal such as a cheese sandwich
- Being removed from the cafeteria to eat elsewhere such as the principal's office
- Being reminded in publicly identifiable ways such as stamps or notes in the lunch line

## A brief history of lunch shame



**2014**

Legislation passed ending the practice of lunch shaming in Minnesota schools.



**2019**

Attorney General Keith Ellison issues a legal opinion in 2019 that students should not be denied the right to participate in graduation due to an unpaid meal balance.



**2019**

Legislation is re-introduced to further strengthen protections against lunch shaming.

**2017**

Reports surface of Stewartville Public Schools dumping the hot lunch of students with a meal debt and replacing it with a cold sandwich.



**2019**

An incident of lunch dumping in the Richfield Public Schools calls attention to the issue of lunch shaming.



## 1 in 4 kids

who are food insecure don't qualify for free/reduced school meals.



### What we can do about it

Pass the bill (HF 149/SF 777) to:

- Keep payment reminders between adults
- Ensure that all children receive a meal regardless of their balance
- Ensure that once a child receives a meal, it may not be subsequently removed
- Prohibit a school meal debt resulting in limitations on school activities