



School Meal Verification Bill. Written Only Testimony
Senate Committee on Government Efficiency
January 27, 2026
Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent, Olathe Public Schools

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee:

Olathe Public Schools is opposed to the concept of new school meal verification procedures. We are very concerned that it will be excessively burdensome and estimate the process will likely cost us nearly \$200,000 in staff costs. Currently, we verify 3% with a significant investment in personnel and time. The issue of required verification for 100% of the Free/Reduced applications would be impossible to accomplish without adding several additional staff. Additionally, the provisions of this bill are likely not in alignment with Federal law.

Olathe Public Schools do not participate in Community Eligibility Program, which is all federally funded, so the impact on us would strictly be the 100% verification unfunded mandate. Nonetheless, the CEP provision requiring legislative authorization to utilize federal funds to feed children from low-income families is another good example of an issue that does not impact the state and should remain the decision of the locally elected school boards.

The proposed legislation has unclear objectives and limited constructive benefit, particularly in the light of significant uncertainty regarding federal policy and intent. Olathe Public Schools is focus on supporting education by ensuring children in need are fed so they can be ready to learn in order to reach their highest academic potential.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Yeager", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent
Olathe Public Schools
byeagerec@olatheschools.org