

# Overcoming Higher Education Hunger Through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Act of 2026

*To ensure food assistance for college students with little to no financial support*

The **Overcoming Higher Education Hunger Through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Act of 2026**, or **OHH SNAP Act of 2026**, expands **SNAP eligibility to college students** with an expected family contribution of zero. Additionally, this bill allows for college credit hours to count towards SNAP work requirements.

## **Endorsing Organizations:**

Atlanta Community Food Bank, Students Engaged, Communities in Schools

## **Why Does This Matter?**

Over the past few years, tuition and student fees have gone up across the country. It is all too common for students from working-class families to drop out of school due to the inability to afford basic necessities, such as food, while trying to pay an expensive tuition.

Higher education is an important pathway that gives individuals the opportunity to pursue the education and experiences necessary to change their socioeconomic trajectory. College should be a time of promise and opportunity, but for too many students, basic needs like food remain unaffordable. Addressing food insecurity is essential to creating an educational system where opportunity is truly accessible to all. No student should have to put their future on hold for the simple reason of being unable to afford a meal.

## **By the Numbers**

- Prices for college tuition and fees **increased 4.7%** from February 2020 to 2023.<sup>[1]</sup>
- In a NASFAA study, **59% students** reported they considered dropping out due to financial stress.<sup>[2]</sup>
- An estimated **41% of US college students** reported experiences of food insecurity, with **2.2 million students** in 2020 categorized as **very food insecure**, reporting multiple instances of having to skip meals or eat less than they should.<sup>[3][4]</sup>
- **Fewer than 2 out of 5 food insecure students** are eligible for SNAP benefits, and of these students, **59% did not report receiving** any SNAP benefits.<sup>[4]</sup>

[1] <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2023/college-tuition-and-fees-up-4-7-percent-since-february-2020.htm>

[2] [https://www.nasfaa.org/newsitem/34147/Report\\_The\\_Biggest\\_Barriers\\_to\\_Higher\\_Ed\\_Enrollment\\_Are\\_Cost\\_and\\_Lack\\_of\\_Financial\\_Aid](https://www.nasfaa.org/newsitem/34147/Report_The_Biggest_Barriers_to_Higher_Ed_Enrollment_Are_Cost_and_Lack_of_Financial_Aid)

[3] <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7442331/>

[4] <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-24-107074.pdf>