



RYAN WALTERS

STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your kids deserve healthy meals to fuel their minds and bodies—period. As State Superintendent, I’m done with the excuses and bureaucratic bloat that’s been robbing Oklahoma families blind. Starting in the 2025/2026 school year, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) will force every school district to fully fund student meals using existing state and federal dollars. No more triple-taxing parents to cover lunches while administrators pad their paychecks. This is about your kids, not their egos.

Last year, Oklahoma schools got over \$250 million in federal funds and \$75 million from state sources like property taxes to feed our students. Yet, families were still hit with a \$42 million lunch bill—on top of taxes—while administrative salaries skyrocketed by 14%, totaling nearly a billion dollars in 2023. “Oklahoma parents are being fleeced to fund bureaucrats’ raises while kids go hungry,” said Superintendent Ryan Walters. “If administrators can’t put your children first, they can find the door.”

This isn’t just mismanagement; it’s a disgrace. Over \$200 million went to administrative costs last year, and over the past decade, those salaries have ballooned by an average of 7% annually. Meanwhile, families paid a \$42 million shortfall for meals. If districts cut their bloated administrative budgets by just over 6%, they’d cover that shortfall and feed every kid without charging parents a dime. Big government and administrative overreach—the Left’s favorite playbook—have failed our students. I’m putting an end to it.



## **Here's what OSDE is doing to fix this mess:**

- Full Meal Funding Mandate: Every district must include a line item in their budget to fully fund school meals using existing funds.
- Budget Oversight: If districts refuse, OSDE will review their budgets and demand administrative cost cuts to prioritize kids.
- Accountability: Districts that still won't comply will face a full financial audit. No more hiding behind excuses.

Beyond funding, we're raising the bar for healthy schools with new MAHA standards. Starting now, districts must phase out and eliminate:

- Ultra-processed junk like packaged snacks, sugary drinks, and processed meats.
- Toxic food dyes (Blue 1&2, Green 3, Red 40, Yellow 5&6).
- Foods grown with pesticides like glyphosate.
- Seed oils (corn, canola, cottonseed, grapeseed, soy).
- Vending machines peddling sugary drinks and processed snacks.

We're also demanding:

- Enough time for kids to eat and digest their meals.
- Fresh, locally sourced ingredients and more scratch cooking.
- Full transparency on meal ingredients to empower parents.
- More time for physical activity to keep kids healthy.

OSDE is pushing an emergency rule to enforce these healthy meal standards. Until then, we're demanding districts submit proof of MAHA compliance, and we'll publish a list of compliant schools on the OSDE website. Vendors will also report their steps to meet these standards. "This isn't optional," Walters said. "Schools that can't prioritize your kids' health and well-being don't deserve your tax dollars."

**Parents, Your Voice Matters—Demand Action Now!**

Oklahoma parents, you're the backbone of this fight. Bureaucrats won't change unless you make them. I'm calling on every one of you to raise your voice and sign our parent petition at [OSDE website link] to demand districts fully fund meals and cut administrative waste. Your signature sends a clear message: no more excuses, no more bloated budgets, no more shortchanging our kids. Stand with me to hold these districts accountable. Sign the petition today and tell administrators to put your children first—or get out of the way!

Oklahoma parents, your kids come first. We're fighting to ensure every dollar goes to their meals, their health, and their future—not bureaucrats' bank accounts. If administrators won't step up, they can step out.

**Please sign out petition here: [School Meal Reform](#)**

For Oklahoma,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Ryan Walters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and last name "Walters" clearly legible.

**Superintendent Ryan Walters**