

# HEALTHY KIDS, STRONGER COMMUNITIES: THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW



A recently published study looking at the health of children ages 5-18 between 1999-2018 showed that approximately 30% of children had at least one chronic condition.<sup>1</sup>

The following three bills work to change that statistic by ensuring students have less access to junk food and more access to healthy choices as well as addressing heavy metals in baby foods.



## HB1131: Healthy Students Act

This bill would prohibit public schools from selling or offering foods during the school day which contain specific artificial food dyes during. This bill addresses health concerns due to artificial food dyes.

## HB1132: Defining Ultra-Processed Foods

This companion bill to HB1131 would prohibit unhealthy, ultra-processed foods in school cafeterias during the school day. The proposed changes would enhance the nutritional quality of foods available to students, with an implementation date set for July 1, 2027, allowing schools time to adjust their offerings.

## HB507: Toxic Metals In Baby Food

This bill, known as the Baby Food Protection Act, mandates that the Department of Health test baby food products for toxic heavy metals and affix clear labels indicating the levels of arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury. The bill sets strict maximum allowable limits for these metals. It aims to protect infants and toddlers from potential health risks associated with heavy metal exposure in food products.

*Please support the common sense solutions promoted in these three bills. The time to protect our children's health and strengthen our communities is now.*

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859\(25\)00035-X/fulltext](https://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859(25)00035-X/fulltext)



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