

Legislative Action Alert – Support School Breakfast Program Funding Increase!

Contact your State Senator and ask them to support an \$880,000 funding increase for the School Breakfast Program in the 2017-2019 biennial budget!

The School Breakfast Program is critical to the academic performance of Wisconsin K-12 students. Studies have shown a nutritious breakfast helps improve a child's mood, behavior and ability to concentrate in the classroom. Specific data shows students who eat school breakfast attend 1.5 more days of school, perform 17.5% better on math tests, and are 20% more likely to graduate.

SNA-WI encourages the Wisconsin State Legislature to increase funding for the School Breakfast Program by \$880,000 in the 2017-2019 biennial budget. The School Breakfast Program is administered by the Department of Public Instruction and is available in 1,957 schools. While the program is primarily funded by the federal government, the state of Wisconsin provides \$2,510,500 in funding each year toward reimbursement to participating schools for each breakfast served under the program.

As a result of the current funding, Wisconsin schools receive approximately \$0.08 per breakfast served during the current school year, despite the fact state law calls for a \$0.15 per meal reimbursement rate. **The combination of a flat state appropriation, continued growth and increased costs in the School Breakfast Program has resulted in lower reimbursement rates for participating schools.**

While SNA-WI believes the reimbursement rate should be equal to state law at \$0.15 per meal, we recognize there are budget constraints and many worthy programs that need funding increases in the 2017-2019 biennial budget. Keeping this mind and being cognizant to the needs of other programs, we are asking for an increase of \$880,000 in funding per year to bring the reimbursement rate to \$0.10 per meal.

KEY POINTS

- Participation in the School Breakfast Program in Wisconsin has more than tripled since 2000. In the 2000-01 school year, 9.9 million breakfasts were served to Wisconsin students. That number will jump to an estimated 32 million served in the current school year.
- Since 2008-09, participation in the School Breakfast Program has increased over 31% in providing 31,792,576 breakfasts in 2016 and yet, state funding for the program has been cut by more than 13% since that time.
- Since the 2008-09 school year, an additional 347 schools are now participating in the School Breakfast Program, bringing the total to 1,957 schools (including 86% of all public schools). The average number of students who participate daily in the School Breakfast Program increased to 189,000 in 2016.

Please contact your State Senator and ask them to increase School Breakfast Program funding by \$880,000 in the 2017-2019 biennial budget. To find out who your legislators are, please click [here](#) and type in your address in the upper right-hand corner.

Thank you for your commitment to the school nutrition field and support for this important initiative!



SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

MAIN MESSAGE:

School nutrition programs, such as the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, are critical to the academic performance of Wisconsin K-12 students. Studies have shown a nutritious breakfast and lunch help improve a child's mood, behavior and ability to concentrate in the classroom. Specific data shows students who eat school breakfast attend 1.5 more days of school, perform 17.5% better on math tests, and are 20% more likely to graduate.

BACKGROUND:

The School Breakfast Program is a federal and state assisted meal program for public and private schools that provide financial assistance to states to operate a School Breakfast Program in Wisconsin that is administered by the Department of Public Instruction. While the program is primarily funded by the federal government, the State of Wisconsin provides \$2,510,500 in annual funding for reimbursement to participating schools for each breakfast served under the program. As a result of the current funding, Wisconsin schools receive approximately 8-cents per breakfast served during the current school year, despite the fact state law calls for a 15-cent per meal reimbursement rate. The combination of a flat state appropriation and continued growth in the School Breakfast Program has resulted in lower reimbursement rates for participating schools.

KEY POINTS:

- State funding for the School Breakfast Program has declined, even as demand for the program has exploded.
- Participation in the School Breakfast Program in Wisconsin has more than tripled since 2000. In the 2000-01 school year, 9.9 million breakfasts were served to students, and during the 2015-16 school year, 31.7 million breakfasts were served.
- Since the 2008-09 school year, participation in the School Breakfast Program has increased over 31% in providing 31,792,576 breakfasts in 2016 and yet, state funding for the program has been cut by more than 13% since that time.
- Also since the 2008-09 school year, an additional 347 schools are now participating in the School Breakfast Program bringing the total to 1,957 schools (including 86% of all public schools). The average number of students who participate daily increased to 189,000 in 2016.

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST:

- **SNA-WI is seeking an additional \$880,000 in each year of the 2017-19 biennium to increase the state School Breakfast Program reimbursement rate to 10-cents for each breakfast served in Wisconsin schools.**

CONTACT:

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact SNA-WI's government affairs consultants Dan Carpenter, Erik Kanter or Tim Hoven at 608-310-8832.