



# School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin

## State Government Affairs Report (Dec. 2012)

### OVERVIEW:

December is typically a “slow time” in the State Capitol. The fall elections are over and many legislators spend the holiday season back in their districts preparing for the upcoming legislative session (begins on Monday, January 7, 2013).

The SNA-WI Legislative Committee and lobbyist team took advantage of the “quiet time” to finalize the Association’s legislative agenda for the 2013-14 legislative session and to meet with key policymakers to discuss our legislative and state budget goals.

**Please find below the December 2012 SNA-WI State Government Affairs Report:**

### ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- The SNA-WI Legislative Committee continues to support an SNA-WI state advocacy day (i.e., “Day at the Capitol”). Once the calendar for the 2013-14 legislative session is released, the Committee will pick a date in February or March for the Association’s “Day at the Capitol” (to be held in Madison) and will then send out a save-the-date announcement to all SNA-WI members.
- The Committee approved a letter from SNA-WI to all newly elected and re-elected legislators congratulating them on their election victory and “introducing” them to SNA-WI and school nutrition issues important to members. The letter was mailed out in mid-December.

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

- **2013-14 budget request** – The SNA-WI Legislative Committee reconfirmed at its November meeting that increased School Breakfast program funding should be the Association’s top state budget priority in the upcoming legislative session. In December, due to the Association’s discussions with the Governor’s office and top legislative leaders in both the Senate and Assembly, the Committee decided to slightly change course.

Instead of backing a budget proposal to transfer 75% of current WI School Day Milk program funding to the School Breakfast program, the Committee voted to modify the SNA-WI budget priority to align with DPI’s budget request to increase funding for school breakfast by 1-cent per meal served – for a total of 10-cents per each meal served.

- **Meeting with the Governor’s office** – The SNA-WI lobbyists met with Gov. Scott Walker’s office twice in November to discuss school nutrition funding and other policy issues. SNA-WI Legislative Committee Chair Renee Slotten-Beauchamp attended the second meeting to provide technical expertise. At that meeting, the Governor’s office asked for a comprehensive “wish list” of SNA-WI policy initiatives to help improve school nutrition in Wisconsin.

The SNA-WI lobbyist met with the Governor’s office for a third time in December to: 1.) Discuss the Association’s support for DPI’s School Breakfast budget request; and 2.) Deliver and discuss the “wish

list.” The list includes policy suggestions dealing with adequate mealtime; professional development and certification for school food service workers; wellness and school nutrition education; and competitive food sales.

- **Meeting with legislative leadership** – The SNA-WI lobbyists met with legislative leaders in both the Senate and Assembly to brief them (and their staff members) on the Association’s state budget goal to increase funding for the School Breakfast program. While no commitments were made, legislators generally understood the importance of the School Breakfast program and the fact that it’s currently underfunded.