



School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin

State Government Affairs Report (Jan. 2013)

OVERVIEW:

The start of the New Year also marked the beginning of a new legislative session in Wisconsin. On Jan. 7, all new elected and re-elected state lawmakers were sworn into office for the 2013-14 legislative session. Now that legislators are back in Madison, the SNA-WI Government Affairs Team is busy meeting with key policymakers to discuss the Association's legislative and state budget goals. At this time of year, it's also important for SNA-WI members to engage in the policy making process as effective grassroots advocates.

Please find below the January 2013 SNA-WI State Government Affairs Report:

ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- The SNA-WI "Day at the Capitol" has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 27. The event will provide SNA-WI members a unique opportunity to advocate for school nutrition funding and policies to help develop the full potential of Wisconsin K-12 students. Members who attend will have a chance to learn more about the legislative process, how grassroots advocacy can impact the process and how you can be an effective advocate for SNA-WI. Most importantly, members will be able to meet with their state legislators to discuss your profession, promote school nutrition policies and advocate for SNA-WI's legislative priorities.
- The SNA-WI Legislative committee approved a letter to Gov. Scott Walker urging him to increase funding for school breakfast reimbursements in his 2013-15 state budget proposal. More specifically, the letter, which was hand-delivered, asks the Governor to increase the state reimbursement rate under the School Breakfast program from 9-cents per meal served to 10-cents for each breakfast served. While the SNA-WI lobbyists have been discussing this issue with the Governor's office since last year, the letter was the Association's "official" request for the Governor's support.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

- **Discussion with the Governor's office** – The SNA-WI lobbyists continue to discuss school nutrition funding and other policy issues with Gov. Scott Walker's office leading up to his state budget address on Wednesday, Feb 20. Those discussions have focused on SNA-WI's request to increase the state reimbursement rate for the School Breakfast Program from 9-cents per meal served to 10-cents for each breakfast served. Conversations have also touched on non-fiscal policy initiatives, including adequate mealtime and school nutrition education.
- **Meeting with legislators** – The SNA-WI lobbyists continue to meet with legislators to discuss the Association's state budget proposal to increase funding for the School Breakfast program (by 1-cent per meal served). While many lawmakers asked questions about the program (including costs and utilization rates), legislators generally understand the need for and importance of the program.