



# School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin

## State Government Affairs Report (Feb. 2013)

### OVERVIEW:

Budget season has begun in Wisconsin. On Wednesday, February 20, Governor Scott Walker introduced his 2013-15 state budget proposal. The two-year, \$68 billion state spending plan will now be debated – and ultimately passed – by the Legislature before it is signed into law by the end of June. The bill provides funding for all state programs, from Medicaid and road building to the university system and K-12 education. It also includes funding for child nutrition programs. With that being the case, the SNA-WI Government Affairs Team is busy at work in the State Capitol promoting Wisconsin's child nutrition programs and asking lawmakers for additional funding to improve these programs.

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

### ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- On Wednesday, February 27, SNA-WI held its 2013 “Day at the Capitol” event. Despite bad weather that limited member turnout, numerous SNA-WI members took advantage of the opportunity to meet with their legislators and advocate for increased school nutrition funding and policies to create healthier school environments.

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

- **Governor's state budget proposal office** – Despite numerous meetings with the Governor's office over the past several months and our request for additional state reimbursement funding for the School Breakfast Program, Gov. Walker's state budget proposal did not include additional SBP funding. Please find below a brief overview of Governor Walker's budget as it relates to school nutrition funding:
  - **School Breakfast Reimbursement Funding** - The Governor did not include in his budget the SNA-WI recommendation (per the Department of Public Instruction's budget request) to increase state reimbursement funding for schools participating in the School Breakfast Program from 9-cents per meal served to 10-cents for each breakfast served in public, private and charter schools. Had the proposal been included, it would have increased funding for the program by roughly \$1.7 million over the two-year budget cycle
  - **Other School Nutrition Funding** - While the SNA-WI request to increase school breakfast funding was not included in the Governor's budget proposal, it's important to point out that funding for the School Lunch, School Breakfast and School Day Milk Programs were not cut – which is a significant improvement over the last several state budgets bills.

However, the introduction of the Governor's budget proposal is only the first step in the four-month long budget process. The SNA-WI Government Affairs Teams will continue to meet with key legislators and lobby the Legislature to increase school breakfast reimbursement funding in the state budget bill. It's also important at this time of year for SNA-WI members to contact their legislators and advocate for additional School Breakfast funding.

- **Meeting with legislators** – The SNA-WI lobbyists continue to meet with legislators, including members of the Legislature's powerful budget-writing committee, to discuss the Association's budget proposal to increase funding for the School Breakfast program (by 1-cent per meal served).