



MINNESOTA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION 2012 LEGISLATIVE ISSUE PAPER

The Minnesota School Nutrition Association is deeply committed to the nutritional health and well-being of children and recognizes the importance of healthy food for growth and student achievement. Therefore, the Minnesota School Nutrition Association endorses the following positions for 2012:

School Meals Funding: MSNA supports maintaining current funding for school meals.

Many families are struggling financially, and they depend on school meals to supply a significant portion of their children's nutritional needs. At the same time, rising food costs have made it more difficult for school nutrition programs to make ends meet while ensuring that every child has access to nutritious school meals at an affordable price.

Minnesota schools serve more than 100 million lunches each year. School districts cannot cover the cost of a school lunch through the traditional combination of student payments, federal funding, and state funding. The gap between the cost of producing a school lunch and the revenue received is 37 cents for every lunch served. Maintaining current state funding will help to keep this gap from growing larger.

Food Service Equipment Purchases: MSNA supports repealing the requirement that school districts obtain approval from the Minnesota Department of Education before purchasing food service equipment from the food service fund. This requirement has often resulted in lengthy delays in the purchase of needed equipment.

Farm to School: MSNA supports measures to encourage schools to purchase locally grown agricultural products.