



MINNESOTA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION 2010 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 2010:

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 approximately 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 revenues received is 37 cents for every lunch served. Maintaining current state funding will help to keep this gap from growing larger.

Nutritional Integrity: MSNA supports reforming federal nutrition standards as proposed by the Institute of Medicine and the School Nutrition Association. Updating federal nutrition standards in accordance with current scientific research will help maintain the nutritional integrity of school meals.

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

Shared Services: MSNA encourages all school districts to participate in cooperative food purchasing groups in order to take advantage of economies of scale.