



MINNESOTA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION 2013 LEGISLATIVE ISSUE PAPER

The Minnesota School Nutrition Association (MSNA) 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 2013:

School Lunch: MSNA supports a 2 cent increase in school lunch aid from 12 cents to 14 cents per lunch.

The school lunch program faces a significant financial challenge. It is increasingly difficult to 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 now 30 cents for every lunch served. New federal requirements to serve more fruits and vegetables and to replace refined grains with whole grains have made school lunches more costly to produce. Increased state funding will help offset some of the increased cost and ensure that every child has access to a healthy school lunch at an affordable price.

School Breakfast: MSNA supports maintaining current funding for school breakfast.

Numerous studies have documented the educational benefits of the school breakfast program. Students who eat school breakfast show increased academic achievement and improved behavior, are more attentive, and visit the school nurse less frequently. State funding helps to defray the cost of this valuable program, which is mandated in all schools where 33% or more of the lunches served are free or reduced.

Farm to School: MSNA supports measures to encourage schools to purchase locally grown agricultural products. Farm to school facilitates education about nutrition, food, and agriculture in and out of the classroom, and helps to maintain local economies by supporting local farmers and growers.