



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

The Minnesota School Nutrition Association (MSNA) is deeply committed to the health and well-being of children and recognizes the importance of nutritious food for student growth and achievement.

Minnesota's School Nutrition programs served more than 99 million school lunches and 30 million school breakfasts last year to the 850,000 public school students in Minnesota. Increasing state financial support for school breakfast and lunch helps improve the quality of food and keeps prices manageable for paying families.

In partnership with the Fueled for Learning Coalition - MSNA prioritizes enacting on-going state financial support for Breakfast After the Bell opportunities:

- Breakfast after the bell includes breakfast in the classroom or grab-and-go breakfast service as students enter the school for the start of their school day.
- Breakfast after the bell options increase student participation and break down barriers for children to consume nutritional meals before their learning day begins.
- Benefits of breakfast after the bell offerings include improved academic achievement, improved student health and increased attendance rates.
- State funding to expand breakfast after the bell offerings should prioritize:
 - Schools required under Minnesota law to have a breakfast program
 - Non CEP schools (schools that don't have more than 62.5% free and reduced eligible student population who are directly certified under the federal Community Eligibility Provision to receive free meals)

Kindergarten Breakfast:

- Periodic state review of local costs associated with providing free breakfast to Kindergartners to ensure the state's free Kindergarten funding is covering schools' full cost of food and labor.

Support for longer meal times:

- School meals are proven to support academic achievement. When students don't have enough time to eat, many of these nutritious foods end up in the trash.

Support Recess before lunch:

- Recess before lunch has positive effects on student's overall health and wellness. Benefits reported by schools include increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, improved behavior and less food waste.

Support Respectful Treatment in the Cafeteria

- Clear and transparent school policies allow parents and students to understand their obligations for receiving school meals.
- Professional development of staff ensures students are treated respectfully when their meal balances are low or negative.
- Oppose taking a served meal away from a student.

Increase School Lunch Reimbursement by 5 cents to 17.5 cents per lunch:

- Minnesota's last state reimbursement increase for all lunches served occurred in 2013 when the reimbursement increased from 12 cents to 12.5 cents.
- School lunch programs face significant financial challenges. Rising costs for food including increased regulations, make it increasingly difficult to cover the cost of a school lunch through the current combination of student payments, federal funding and state funding.
- Increasing state support helps maintain affordable prices and high-quality nutrition for students.

Farm to School

- School nutrition programs purchase locally grown agricultural products as a matter of good nutrition and business practice.
- Provide funding through the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) program to help local producers bring their products to institutional markets, like schools.