



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

Healthy School Meals for All:

MSNA urges the Governor and Minnesota Legislature to invest the necessary state funding from the historic \$17.6 billion surplus to permanently offer all students breakfast and lunch at no charge. School nutrition programs are proven to fuel student learning and combat child hunger and obesity. Healthy school meals for all will:

- Provide all students *equal* access to school breakfast and lunch and eliminate any stigma or barriers for students to benefit from nutritional meals.
- Support student learning, improve attendance and classroom behavior and contribute to overall health and wellness.
- Ensure no child goes hungry during the school day or accrues unpaid meal debt, a burden on families and school district budgets.
- Eliminate the costly, time-consuming meal application and verification process, and streamline paperwork and reporting requirements for parents and school personnel.

MSNA urges the Governor and Minnesota legislature to incentivize Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) eligible schools to participate by ensuring meal reimbursements at the USDA rate necessary to avoid nutrition program deficits, that might otherwise require local school district financial support.

MSNA urges the Governor and Minnesota legislature to reimburse schools at the USDA rate for meal revenue that would otherwise be collected for full and partially paid students who attend schools that are unable to participate in CEP.

MSNA further encourages the Governor and Minnesota Legislature to remedy any loss of education funds, such as Compensatory Aid, currently generated by the application for educational benefits, resulting from the implementation of a Universal School meals program.