

Dear [LEGISLATOR],

My name is [NAME]. I'm your constituent *(only include if you actually live in the legislator's district)*, and I'm a school nutrition professional at [district/organization]. I am also a member of the School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin (SNA-WI).

I am writing to ask you and your legislative colleagues to provide school meals for all students. In particular, SNA-WI requests that you provide enough state funding that, combined with existing federal school meal funding, would reimburse Wisconsin schools at the free meal reimbursement rate for each meal served. This proposal is in line with the FY2025-2027 budget proposal that Governor Evers submitted to the legislature.

Approximately one-third of schoolchildren in our state live in food-insecure families that do not meet the income thresholds to participate in the existing free or reduced-price school meal programs. In addition, According to Feeding America-Wisconsin, as of 2022, 16.5% of children in Wisconsin were food insecure – they did not always have access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

School meals are educational tools that enable student success. Studies have shown a nutritious breakfast and lunch help improve a child's mood, behavior and ability to concentrate in the classroom. **According to data, students who eat school breakfast attend 1.5 more days of school, perform 17.5% better on math tests, and are 20% more likely to graduate.**

Families also continue to face inflationary pressures. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased the cost of goods and services by 21 percent in the last four years (since January 2021). This makes it even more difficult for families to ensure that their children receive a nutritious meal each day.

Please provide \$147.7 million in FY2026-2027 to ensure that, along with existing federal funds, Wisconsin schools would receive enough school meal funding to reimburse schools at the free meal reimbursement rate for each meal served. As noted above, this is in line with the FY2025 – 2027 budget proposal that Governor Evers submitted to the legislature. I'd be happy to discuss this issue with you further or provide additional information about how school meal funding impacts students and families in [City/Village/Town].

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

[Insert SNA Member's Telephone Number]