



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

April 24, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Michael Gasper

President, School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin (SNA-WI); (608) 526-6610 ext. 1324

Caitlin Harrison

Legislative Committee Chair, School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin (SNA-WI); (920) 822-6065

SNA Members Testify Before Joint Committee On Finance

SNA Supports Full Funding for School Breakfast

On Wednesday, April 24 School Nutrition Association – Wisconsin Chapter (SNA-WI) Legislative Committee Chair Caitlin Harrison testified before the State Legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance at its final public hearing on the 2019-2021 biennial budget in Green Bay. Harrison, a school nutrition professional in the Pulaski School District, educated the committee on the importance of fully funding the school breakfast program.

Due to current funding levels, Wisconsin schools receive approximately 8-cents per breakfast despite the fact state law calls for a 15-cent per meal reimbursement rate. The combination of a flat state appropriation and continued growth in the School Breakfast Program has resulted in lower reimbursement rates each year for participating schools.

State funding for the School Breakfast Program has remained flat since 2012 even as demand continues to grow. During the 2016-2017 school year, 1,978 schools participated in the School Breakfast Program. On average, more than 179,000 students participated every day and more than 31.7 million breakfasts were served.

“School breakfast helps fight hunger, promote healthy eating habits and allow students to reach their full potential,” said Harrison. “The state cannot afford to continue to allow funding levels to drop. Our schools and our kids need the 15-cent reimbursement that state law calls for.”

SNA-WI is not alone in asking for full funding. The initiative is also supported by School Choice Wisconsin, Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools, the Hunger Task Force, Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance, American Heart Association, Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Wisconsin Public Health Association, and Wisconsin Association of Local Health Department and Boards.

The School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin represents nearly 1,170 school nutrition professionals statewide who provide high-quality, low-cost meals to Wisconsin students. As a non-profit professional organization, our members are committed to developing the full potential of all children through quality nutrition.