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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **School Nutrition Professionals Applaud School Breakfast Funding Proposal** *Urge Legislature to Approve 15-Cent per Meal Reimbursement*

The School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin (SNA-WI) supports Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' proposal to fund the School Breakfast Program at the statutorily-set 15-cents per meal in the 2021-23 biennial budget. Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Instruction, the School Breakfast Program is a federal and state assisted meal program for public and private schools that provides millions of breakfasts to Wisconsin students every year.

"State funding for the school breakfast has remained stagnant for a decade," said SNA-WI President, Mike Gasper. "Yet schools are serving 10 million more breakfasts than they did ten years ago. State funds have been prorated so significantly we are only receiving 7-cents per meal."

State statute sets per meal breakfast reimbursements at 15-cents per breakfast. However, actual funding does not reflect statute. 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.

"SNA-WI members face increasing financial stress every year. Meal programs are intended to break even, but without adequate state assistance more and more programs fall short," said Gasper.

When school meal programs have insufficient funds at the end of each year, they are forced to draw from districts' general fund accounts, which takes money away from classrooms and students.

"Ten years of insufficient funding is ten too many. Our schools and our students need the state to uphold its statutory obligation and fund school breakfast programs at 15-cents per breakfast," said Jamie Wilson, Chairman of the SNA-WI Legislative Committee. "We are grateful to Governor Evers for including that funding in his proposal, but we need the legislature to pass it in their final budget bill."

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.

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