



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

Dear Superintendents,

Last night, as parents across Michigan put their kids to bed, some received emails from their districts telling them that their child would not be fed free breakfast or lunch at school tomorrow. Many other schools, on the other hand, operated as normal, and fed every child who walked through their doors this morning. We are grateful to them.

We write today to call on every school to continue feeding every student. While we acknowledge the uncertainty that the Michigan Legislature has created by not passing a final budget yet, we implore you to do what it takes to feed every kid as we wait for the budget. So, to keep it simple: Do what's right for our students and continue providing free school breakfast and lunch for all.

Two summers ago, we came together to make school breakfast and lunch free for all 1.4 million public school students in Michigan. Free school meals save parents valuable time every morning, around \$1,000 a year per kid, and ensure no children go hungry while they learn. Nutrition is directly linked to academic achievement because it's almost impossible to focus during class on an empty stomach. We need to feed our kids to help them succeed.

The state budget process this year has been drawn out—there is no denying that. We are frustrated by it too, and we wish the Michigan Legislature had passed a full fiscal-year budget earlier this summer to provide us all with more certainty. But we also know that a child's hunger doesn't wait on a fiscal year.

The Michigan Legislature has committed to passing a balanced, bipartisan, full fiscal-year budget in the days ahead. Republicans and Democrats have already reached a deal on key elements of the school aid bill. The bill will continue funding free school meals for all. We are all in agreement that no children in Michigan should go hungry and they should have more resources in their classrooms to learn and grow.

As we continue pushing the Michigan Legislature to finalize the budget, we urge you to feed every student you serve today, tomorrow, and every single school day after that too. We hope every student will continue to receive free school meals. Let's feed our kids.

Best,

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent