



# Sun Prairie Area School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

## Resolution in Support of AB805 - Wisconsin Healthy School Meals for All Act

**WHEREAS**, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent closing of schools for in-person learning highlighted just how much families rely on school meals to keep their children fed: and

**WHEREAS**, offering universal school meals benefits students and their parents, teachers, and schools as multiple studies show that students with access to free breakfast have improved attendance rates, perform better in school, have improved participation rates, fewer behavioral incidents, lower suspension rates and better health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, universal meals will reduce financial stress for students and families; and

**WHEREAS**, parents and caregivers should not be required to do burdensome paperwork to prove they are poor enough to get free meals or subjected to burdensome debt when they can't pay; and

**WHEREAS**, since the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended their Seamless Summer Option (SSO) that provides one free breakfast and one free lunch daily to all students in our district through the 2021 - 2022 school year, the Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD) has seen an almost 100% increase in breakfasts served daily (1000 to 1997) from pre-pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, if a family with one child in the school district paid to eat breakfast and lunch every day in SPASD, they would be paying \$33.90 a week (\$1200/school year). With the USDA SSO, that money is able to be spent on other essentials or spent in the community thus helping local businesses thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, if the state passed and implemented the Wisconsin Healthy Schools Meals for All Bill and continued to cover the cost of free breakfast and free lunch, it would provide much-needed financial relief for families, communities, and school districts. In SPASD, this would look like more than \$2 million that could be returned to the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, with the knowledge of how important a role nutrition plays in meeting student's basic needs and to better prepare them socially and emotionally for academics, in the 2017 - 2018 school year, the Sun Prairie Area School District made the decision to make sure that all students in the district received school breakfast and lunch no matter their circumstances and ending "lunch shaming" in the school district: and

**WHEREAS**, this decision was made because Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education, administrators, faculty, and staff know that children learn best with food in their stomach and it is not their fault if their parents/caregivers can not afford to pay for it and the fiscal impact of this decision hasn't exceeded \$60,000 in a school year;

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education fully supports the Wisconsin Healthy School Meals for All Act (AB805) so that all kids throughout the state of Wisconsin can receive the food they need to be successful in school and further work to remove the stigma of poverty that has always existed in the school meals program; and

**BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sun Prairie Board of Education calls upon our fellow elected officials to support this act by passing resolutions in favor at the local level, co-sponsoring it at the state level, and advocating for kids across the state to access the healthy food they need during the school day.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Education of the Sun Prairie Area School District on the 14th of February, 2022.



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Steve Schroeder, President on behalf of  
the Board of Education

Carol Sue Albright, Clerk  
Caren Diedrich, Member  
Alwyn Foster, Member  
Dave Hoekstra, Treasurer  
Bryn Horton, Vice President  
Sarah Rhoads, Member  
Carson Schmoltdt, Student Member  
Tom Weber, Governance Officer/ Deputy Clerk