



March 12, 2023

Support HF 2546 and SF 2223: Every Meal grant funding provided

The Minnesota School Nutrition Association (MSNA) urges passage of HF 2546 and SF 2223, which will provide Every Meal with an investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide.

Every Meal has been an essential partner with school nutrition, filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010. Every Meal has become a leader with its successful Weekend Meal Program – a food program that provides students with weekend food bags directly in their backpacks while they're in school. We know that the most efficient and effective way to provide food to children experiencing hunger on weekends is through backpack food programs.

The need for Every Meal's services has only increased in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with over 48 percent more children served now compared to 2020. Although they continue to see generosity in their community partners, they strive to serve every child in need. Every Meal's current facility is bursting at the seams – limiting their ability to serve additional hungry children.

By supporting HF 2546 and SF 2223, you will help ensure that more children have access to good food for every meal, not just when they're in school. HF 2546 and SF 2223 would allow a one-time, \$4 million cash investment toward an \$8 million food distribution hub. This hub will greatly expand capacity to reach more children in Minnesota

Please consider the positive impacts this would have on our shared responsibility to serve kids across Minnesota. Every Meal is ready to address this tremendous need and I urge you to take action in supporting SF2223/HF2546.

We urge your support for HF 2546 and SF 2223

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
*Cheryl Pick*  
President  
MSNA

*Darcy Stueber*  
Public Policy Chair  
MSNA

*Margaret I. Winchell*  
Executive Director  
MSNA