

**Please support SF2223/HF2546, a bill that will provide a nation-leading investment in filling the weekend food gap for Minnesota students**

Minnesota State Legislators,

As leaders dedicated to the betterment of children in Minnesota, we ask for your support for SF2223/HF2546 that would provide Every Meal with a modest investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide.

Every Meal has been filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010 and 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 we continue to see generosity in our community and we strive to serve every child in need, Every Meal is literally bursting at the seams – limiting our ability to serve hungry children.

By supporting this bill, you will help ensure that more children have access to good food for every meal, not just when they’re in school. It would allow a one-time, \$4 million cash investment toward an \$8 million food distribution hub that will greatly expand capacity to reach more children. It’s a nation-leading investment in our school-age children.

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.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your work to help make Minnesota a better place for our children.

Sincerely,

**Organizations**

Jennifer Stern  
CEO, Great MN Schools

Ellie Lucas  
CEO, Hunger Impact Partners

Brandon Jones\*  
Executive Director, Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health

Darcy Stueber\*  
Public Policy Chair, Minnesota School Nutrition Association



**EVERY MEAL**  
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Courtney Stenseth  
Board Secretary, Minnesota School Social Workers Association

Mary Jo McGuire\*  
Commissioner, Ramsey County

Dan Roe\*  
Mayor, City of Roseville

**Schools and Districts**

Molly Schilling  
Superintendent, Adrian Public School District (D511)

Kate Maguire  
Interim Superintendent, Anoka-Hennepin Public School District (D11)

Eric Melbye  
Superintendent, Bloomington Public School District (D271)

Nate Rudolph  
Superintendent, Cambridge-Isanti Public School District (D911)

Jeff Sampson  
Superintendent, Cannon Falls Public School District (D252)

Zena Stenvik  
Superintendent, Columbia Heights Public School District (D13)

Lisa Sayles-Adams  
Superintendent, Eastern Carver County Public School District (D112)

Stacie Stanley  
Superintendent, Edina Public School District (D273)

Daniel Bittman  
Superintendent, Elk River Public School District (D728)

Kim Hiel  
Superintendent, Fridley Public School District (D14)

La Shawn Ray  
Executive Director, Hiawatha Academies

Michael Favor  
Superintendent, Intermediate School District 917 (D917)



**EVERY MEAL**  
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Ranae Case Evenson  
Superintendent, Jordan Public School District (D717)

Erick Enger  
Superintendent, Lake City Public School District (D813)

Rochelle Cox\*  
Interim Superintendent, Minneapolis Public School District (D1)

Eric Olson  
Superintendent, Monticello Public School District (D882)

Tim Dittberner  
Superintendent, New Prague Area Schools (D721)

Erika Saas\*  
Executive Director & Co-Founder, Northeast College Prep Charter School

Kristine Flesher  
Superintendent, Orono Public School District (278)

Cory McIntyre  
Superintendent, Osseo Public School District (D279)

Frank Norton  
Interim Superintendent, Red Wing Public School District (D256)

Steven Unowsky  
Superintendent, Richfield Public School District (D280)

Michael Rogers  
President, Risen Christ Catholic School

David Engstrom  
Superintendent, Robbinsdale Public School District (D281)

Mary Kreger  
Superintendent, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District (D196)

Jenny Loeck  
Superintendent, Roseville Public School District (D623)

Mike Redmond  
Superintendent, Shakopee Public School District (D720)



**EVERY MEAL**  
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Brian Zambreno  
Superintendent, South St. Paul Public School District (D6)

Joe Gothard, Ed. D\*  
Superintendent, St. Paul Public School District (D625)

Jim Freihammer  
Superintendent, Wabasha-Kellogg Public School District (D811)

Darren Schuler  
Superintendent, Watertown-Mayer Public School District (D111)

Kevin Bord  
Superintendent, Westonka Public School District (277)

John Landgaard  
Superintendent, Worthington Public School District (D518)

\*individual letter also provided

February 28, 2023

Minnesota State Legislators,

As leaders dedicated to the betterment of children in Minnesota, we ask for your support for SF2223/HFXXXX that would provide Every Meal with a modest investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide.

Every Meal has been filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010 and 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 backpack food programs are the most efficient and effective way to provide food to children experiencing hunger on weekends.

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 we continue to see generosity in our community and we strive to serve every child in need, Every Meal is literally bursting at the seams – limiting our ability to serve hungry children.

By supporting this bill, you will help ensure that more children have access to good food for every meal, not just when they're in school. It would allow a one-time, \$4 million cash investment toward an \$8 million food distribution hub that will greatly expand capacity to reach more children. It's a nation-leading investment in our school-age children.

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/HFXXXX.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your work to help make Minnesota a better place for our children.

Sincerely,



**Brandon Jones, M.A., CPPM**

He/Him

Executive Director

Office Number: 651-789-8626 | [Email: bjones@macmh.org](mailto:bjones@macmh.org)

**Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health**



MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

**Office of the Superintendent**

Rochelle Cox, Interim Superintendent  
1250 W. Broadway Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55411  
612.668.0200

March 6, 2023

**Please support SF2223/HF2546, a bill that will provide a nation-leading investment in filling the weekend food gap for Minnesota students**

Minnesota State Legislators,

As leaders dedicated to the betterment of children in Minnesota, we ask for your support for SF2223/HF2546 that would provide Every Meal with a modest investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide.

Every Meal has been filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010 and 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 we continue to see generosity in our community and we strive to serve every child in need, Every Meal is literally bursting at the seams – limiting our ability to serve hungry children.

By supporting this bill, you will help ensure that more children have access to good food for every meal, not just when they're in school. It would allow a one-time, \$4 million cash investment toward an \$8 million food distribution hub that will greatly expand capacity to reach more children. It's a nation-leading investment in our school-age children.

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.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your work to help make Minnesota a better place for our children.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Cox  
Interim Superintendent  
Minneapolis Public Schools



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



**Please support SF2223/HF2546, a bill that will provide a nation-leading investment in filling the weekend food gap for Minnesota students**

Minnesota State Legislators,

As the co-founder and Executive Director of Northeast College Prep, I see the impact that Every Meal has on our students each week. Every Meal fills the gap of food scarcity for our students each weekend. We ask for your support for SF2223/HF2546 that would provide Every Meal with a modest investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide.

Every Meal has been filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010 and 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 we continue to see generosity in our community and we strive to serve every child in need, Every Meal is literally bursting at the seams – limiting our ability to serve hungry children.

By supporting this bill, you will help ensure that more children have access to good food for every meal, not just when they’re in school. It would allow a one-time, \$4 million

Northeast College Prep  
300 Industrial Blvd. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Phone: 612-248-8240 \* Fax: 612-248-8259





cash investment toward an \$8 million food distribution hub that will greatly expand capacity to reach more children. It's a nation-leading investment in our school-age children.

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.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your work to help make Minnesota a better place for our children.

Sincerely,

Erika Sass

Co-founder

Executive Director

612-248-8243

[esass@northeastcollegeprep.org](mailto:esass@northeastcollegeprep.org)

Northeast College Prep  
300 Industrial Blvd. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

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**Mary Jo McGuire**  
Ramsey County Commissioner  
District 2

220 Court House  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
Office (651) 266-8359  
Fax (651) 266-8370  
[www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cb/district2](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cb/district2)

**Cate Duin**  
Principal Assistant  
[caidyn.duin@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:caidyn.duin@co.ramsey.mn.us)

March 6, 2023

Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to share my support for SF2223/HF2546 that would provide Every Meal with a modest investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide. Every Meal is a trusted community partner. I'm familiar with their good work since they serve many students in the community that I live in and represent.

Every Meal has been filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010 and 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 we continue to see generosity in our community and Every Meal strives to serve every child in need, their current space is inadequate and limits their ability to serve hungry children.

By supporting this bill, you will help ensure that more children have access to good food for every meal, not just when they're in school. This one-time, \$4 million cash investment toward an \$8 million food distribution hub will greatly expand capacity to meet the need.

Please consider the positive impacts this would have on kids, families, and our communities. Every Meal is ready to address this tremendous need and I urge you to support SF2223/HF2546.

Thank you for your leadership and your work to help make Minnesota a better place for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo McGuire".

Mary Jo McGuire  
Ramsey County Commissioner - District 2

**Working With You to Enhance Our Quality of Life**

printed on recycled paper with a minimum of 10% post consumer content





March 13, 2023

Minnesota State Legislators,

As leaders dedicated to the betterment of children in Minnesota, we ask for your support for SF 2223/HF 2546 that would provide Every Meal with a modest investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide.

Every Meal has been filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010 and 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.

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By supporting this bill, you will help ensure that more children have access to good food for every meal, not just when they’re in school. It would allow a one-time, \$4 million cash investment toward an \$8 million food distribution hub that will greatly expand capacity to reach more children. It’s a nation-leading investment in our school-age children.

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 SF 2223/HF2546

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your work to help make Minnesota a better place for our children.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Roe  
Mayor



**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Independent School District 625**  
360 Colborne Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

**Office of the Superintendent**  
Joseph Gothard, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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Telephone: (651) 767-8152 Fax: (651) 767-3441 [www.spps.org](http://www.spps.org)

March 2, 2023

Dear Minnesota State Legislators,

Please support SF 2223, a bill that will provide a nation-leading investment in filling the weekend food gap for Minnesota students.

As leaders dedicated to the betterment of children in Minnesota, we ask for your support for SF 2223 that would provide Every Meal with a modest investment to build a facility to expand needed weekend food distribution to students statewide.

Every Meal has been filling the weekend food gap for school-age children since 2010 and 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.

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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 SF 2223.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your work to help make Minnesota a better place for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Gothard".

Joe Gothard, Superintendent