

## Resolution 1920R-002

By Directors Tony Báez and Paula Phillips

WHEREAS, It should not matter which MPS school a child attends in whether or not that child has access to a healthful school meal; and

WHEREAS, The national benchmark for a school district's providing access to breakfast is 70% of children who eat free or reduced-priced (F/R) lunch; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Public Schools is ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in the country of large urban school districts for has the largest breakfast gap (i.e., the difference between the number of low-income children who eat school breakfast and the number of low-income children who eat school lunch. ) in the county: There are more than 35 schools in the district with breakfast gaps of at least 50 kids—Milwaukee Public Schools, with a free and reduced rate exceeding 70%, meet the national goal of 70% breakfast.~~If all of these schools were to reach the 70% national standard, over 4,500 additional kids would be provided access to school breakfast;~~ and

WHEREAS, MPS Administrative Policy 4.07 states, "School nutrition programs are proven to improve student performance and assist in closing the achievement gap. Foods offered to students in addition to meals will be of optimal nutrition quality. District food service dietitians are charged with maintaining school meal nutritional standards per USDA requirements and will work to improve healthful, fresh menu choices for students"; and

WHEREAS, MPS Administrative Policy 4.05 states, "The district recognizes that proper nutrition and academic achievement are inextricably bound and will therefore advocate for universal free meals for breakfast and lunch. In addition, the Board will advocate for federal funding for supper programs for after school programs. The major objective of the school lunch program shall be to safeguard and improve the health and well-being of school children. The lunchroom should be considered an educational facility for teaching good dietary practices through the serving of nutritional adequate and attractive meals"; and

WHEREAS; it is vital for MPS teachers, administrators, nutrition professionals, students, and parents to work together to ensure equal access to school meals for all MPS students; and

WHEREAS, When breakfast is served early, before the school-day begins, it may be difficult for students to arrive at school in time for breakfast; and

WHEREAS, Children, especially older children, who are very conscious of what their peers think of them, may skip the free breakfast, even if they're hungry, rather than been seen as "the poor kids"; and

WHEREAS, Providing a breakfast after the bell across all MPS schools helps to ensure equitable nutrition for all students while eliminating barriers exacerbated by such racial and economic inequalities s transportation and food insecurity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee Board of School Directors directs that:

1. the Superintendent or designee require every MPS school in which 70% or more of its students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program or the federal School Breakfast Program to establish a school "breakfast after the bell" program; and

2. no later than the last day of school for the 2018-19 school year, MPS Nutrition shall present a Nutrition Equity Plan for establishment of a "breakfast after the bell" (BATB) program for all grades at each school in the district that is required to establish such a program, the Plan to include:
  - a. a list of available breakfast grants in order for schools to maximize participation in school breakfast;
  - b. a plan to notify and train MPS employees in advance of the BATB's implementation;
  - c. promotion and notification of BATB to parents/guardians and to students in advance of the start date and regularly until the participation goal is met;
  - d. input from MPS educators, administrators, food service staff, parents and students, and community partners prior to full implementation;
4. no later than the first full school year following the passage of the MPS Nutrition Equity Plan, MPS shall establish a "breakfast after the bell" program in each of its schools which are subject to the requirements of this resolution; and
5. each year thereafter, prior to the regular July meeting of the Board, the Department of Nutrition shall submit to the Board the name of each MPS school within MPS that falls short of the national benchmark of 70% of children who eat free or reduced-priced (F/R) lunch and also receive school breakfast so that the Board may monitor compliance with this policy.

*May 30, 2019*