



**Georgia School
Nutrition Association**

2025 State Legislative Position Paper

The Georgia School Nutrition Program provides fuel for a successful Georgia by offering healthy and accessible food to its students, by procuring locally sourced foods to support Georgia's economy and offering a workforce to residents across the state. It is critical these elements are not significantly and continuously impacted.

Over the past several years, Georgia's school nutrition programs have faced many impactful variables that if made permanent would be detrimental to the program. Issues with personnel retention, food shortages, delivery problems, and remaining compliant with federal regulations have affected the ability to operate effectively. It is important to remember that food and agriculture essential workers span the entire food supply chain, from farm workers to restaurant and school nutrition employees.

In the school year 2023-2024, Georgia schools served approximately 189 million lunches and 110 million breakfasts to meet the needs of over 1.75 million students. A team of approximately 13,170 School Nutrition Employees working across Georgia in the school setting accomplished this very important feat. Georgia school nutrition programs also provide support to the Georgia agricultural industry. Georgia School Nutrition Programs spent over \$7 million in Georgia Grown Foods through the Local Food for Schools grants, DOD and many other locally grown foods that are used in the daily meal service in the school year 2023-2024 alone.

To support the continued health of Georgia's students, and ensure the financial sustainability of Georgia's economy and school nutrition programs, GSNA requests the General Assembly:

- 1. Make the provided \$5.3 million a line item in state funding for School Nutrition in the FY 2025 budget. The addition of these funds would be earmarked to cover the cost of Breakfast and Lunch for reduced-paying students.**
- 2. Provide \$5.3 million to the state funding for School Nutrition in the FY 2025 budget. The addition of these funds would be earmarked to cover the cost of Breakfast and Lunch for reduced-paying students.**
- 3. Expand the funding (multiplier) for the Public-School Employee's Retirement System (PSERS) \$0.50 from the current \$17.00 to \$17.50 to be included in the current year budget and forward.**

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