UNITING OUR MEMBERS AND THE NATION

Empowering leaders, educating students, strengthening communities

Leading on Advocacy for Student Wellbeing

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COMPETENCY: ADVOCACY

**Level**
- Level 2: Mobilizing & Power Building

**Themes**
- Leverages advocacy practice
- Engages community around issues supporting student learning
- Interprets and acts on social justice initiatives
• **NEA Strategic Goals**
  – Strategic Goal 1: Strong Affiliates for Educator Voice and Empowerment
  – Strategic Goal 2: Empowered Educators for Successful Students

• **NEA Organizational Priority**
  – My School, My Voice
Introductions

• Who are you?
• Where are you from?
• Why did you choose this session?
Please take a few minutes to fill out the checklist based on your perspective from your own school.
Your school checklist

Table Discussion:

• How many checklist items apply to your school?
• What’s missing?
• How is your school doing in terms of healthy meals?
• What is your local union doing to advocate for the wellbeing of your students?
Examples of pending legislation we support

- HB 37 – School Safety-Structures
- HB 80 – School Food-Summer Intervention
- SB 54 – Summer Food Programs
- Related provisions in HB 49 – State Budget Bill
- Federal support for student nutrition, children’s healthcare, etc.
Advocacy Beyond Legislation
Case Study: Breakfast in the Classroom
Ohio’s School Breakfast Challenge

Raise Your Praise

Schools that meet the criteria below will receive a Breakfast All-Star banner to proudly display in their school. Schools with the following Average Daily Participation (ADP) rates at breakfast can receive the following statewide recognition.

**Breakfast All-Stars**
- **Platinum**
  - 80% or higher total ADP*
- **Gold**
  - 70–79% total ADP*
- **Silver**
  - 60–69% total ADP*
- **Bronze**
  - 50–59% total ADP*

**Rising Stars**
- 30% increase from previous school year ADP*

Now it’s your turn to help your students eat right and be bright!

Take the Ohio School Breakfast Challenge today.
We recognize the connection/benefits between proper nutrition, student health and academic success.

Our members have the opportunity and will to address hunger.

Educators go above and beyond to meet their students’ basic needs, even digging into their own wallets.

Why School Breakfast?

Percentage of teachers who have purchased student life essentials for their students

- 64% Clothing
- 54% Food
- 50% Hygiene items
Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom

• Mission: To increase breakfast consumption among schoolchildren and spark the academic and nutritional gains associated with the morning meal.

• Since 2010, the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom have worked with schools in 36 school districts and 18 states to provide breakfast to over 63,000 additional low-income students.

National Partners:
• Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
• National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
• School Nutrition Foundation (SNF)
• The NEA Foundation
Benefits of Breakfast in the Classroom

Academic Achievement

Obesity Prevention

District Funding
Academics and Learning

- Eating breakfast at school helps children perform better
- Improved academic achievement, especially in vocabulary, math and standardized tests
- Improved concentration, alertness, comprehension, memory and learning
- Better attendance records, less tardiness and fewer behavior and psychological problems
Eating breakfast can improve children’s diets and may reduce obesity risk.

- Children who eat breakfast have better intake of key nutrients (calcium, iron, potassium, fiber, protein)
- Eating school breakfast is associated with lower mean BMI levels
District Funding

Increase participation, decrease absenteeism, and reduce tardiness with effective models

- Maximize federal and state meal reimbursements
- Increase ADA-related funding
- Increase “indirect” dollars into the General Fund

Support district budgets and robust nutrition programs
OEA’s Involvement in Breakfast in the Classroom

- Targeting eligible school districts
- Outreach to local leaders
- Assistance in assessing needs and opportunities
- Guidance through the application process
- Promotion of the program
- Ongoing collaboration with partner organizations, administrators and members
Indian Creek Education Association
Advocacy for student wellbeing at the local level in numerous other ways

- Huron County Fair – book giveaway
- Sylvania Education Association – Rally for Refugees
- Louisville Education Association – partnership with USW; special needs basketball game
- NEOEA Locals – support for WomenSafe shelter and support services
- Amelia High School – Community Thanksgiving celebration
- Boardman Center Middle School – WEB mentorship program
Your stories and ideas?
Resources: Organizing Local Community Outreach Programs

- Ohio Education Association – https://ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/community-outreach/
- Summer Feeding/ After School Meal Programs – http://www.nokidhungry.org/what-we-do/afterschool-meals
- NEA Foundation – Student Achievement Grants – https://www.neafoundation.org/for-educators/student-achievement-grants/
Session Outcomes

The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:

– To advocate for school improvements centered on student needs beyond test scores
– To engage members in your local by organizing around student needs
– To promote specific proven models to increase the level of participation in your school’s breakfast program
• Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session by using the **NEA Summit Mobile APP**!

• Please visit the Leadership Development Resources website at [www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment](http://www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment)