



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
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August, 2015

Dear Superintendent,

The impact of food insecurity continues to affect many families in the Commonwealth. As you are aware, unaddressed food insecurity can impact a child's ability to concentrate and learn in school. The Massachusetts Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, Free/Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Programs, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), make it possible for children to have nutritious food, in these difficult times.

It is critical that parents are reminded that these programs are available to them, as so many families struggle silently and are reluctant to ask for assistance. In an effort to distribute pertinent information, we are requesting your help and assistance from your staff to share resource materials with families.

We have shared a similar letter to the principals regarding the WIC and SNAP information. Please review the enclosures and grant permission to the principals in your district to share information with parents and guardians.

Here are some ways that you, the principals, and other school officials can help:

- Make copies of the enclosed fliers for the office and send home to all parents or guardians
- Distribute the enclosed fliers at PTO meetings, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, etc.
- Include the enclosed flier in your monthly newsletter, weekly bulletins to parents, or food service menu
- Post the information on your website and create a link to the WIC and SNAP websites
- Include information about WIC and SNAP in your e-mails and automated phone messages
- Mention the availability of these programs at staff meetings and parent meetings

Thank you for your support. We know that hungry kids cannot succeed in school. With your help, we can continue to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Judy Hause
Director
Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program

Noreen Kelly
Director of Community Initiatives
Project Bread – The Walk Hunger