



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Marty A. Kemp  
FIRST LADY

November 7, 2019

Dear Superintendents:

No child should come to school hungry in our state, yet many do – and I know it is a priority for your district to ensure that all students begin the school day with the fuel that they need to learn and grow. In support of school breakfast initiatives, I urge you to consider how your district delivers school breakfast. I encourage you to meet with your School Nutrition Director to explore ways to serve breakfast to more students during the school year.

There are many ways to encourage students to participate in school breakfast programs. Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab-and-Go Breakfast, and other methods of delivery can increase participation. Georgia-grown offerings can also be included as part of the breakfast meal. More information is available at <http://snp.wpgadoe.org/units/rtau/georgia-school-breakfast-program/>

Research shows that eating a healthy school breakfast and lunch improves student attendance, discipline, and academic performance. Many Georgia school systems already have breakfast programs, and some are free to all students. Unfortunately, even in school systems with breakfast programs in place, barriers – such as timing, location, transportation challenges, and stigma associated with free school meals – may keep students from eating school breakfast.

Currently in Georgia, nearly 60 percent of students who eat school lunches also participate in school breakfast. A Georgia team of state and local government and nonprofit representatives recently participated in the No Kid Hungry School Breakfast Leadership Institute to learn what other states are doing to increase participation in the breakfast program. The Georgia team is developing an action plan with strategies to improve the breakfast participation rate along with overall participation in programs addressing childhood hunger.

All Georgia students deserve opportunities to grow, learn, and reach their full potential, and starting the school day with a healthy breakfast is essential. By utilizing school breakfast options to help address food insecurity, together we can improve the well-being and academic achievement of children across our state. I appreciate your attention to this important issue and your work to support students by fueling Georgia's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MAK".

Marty A. Kemp

First Lady of Georgia