

## News Release

### Saskatoon Public Schools welcomes decision to sign onto National School Food Program

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Saskatoon Public Schools welcomes yesterday's Government of Saskatchewan announcement that [Saskatchewan has signed onto the National School Food Program](#). The National School Food Program was announced by the federal government in 2024 and, through a \$1 billion investment over five years, will provide meals to up to 400,000 children across Canada each year.

"We are very pleased to see this announcement, and excited to see what this will do for our students," says Colleen Norris, Superintendent of Education responsible for Health and Nutrition Partnerships. "We don't know how the funding will work yet, but we are looking forward to working out these details."

Saskatoon Public Schools has been working with community partners on school food programs across Saskatoon for decades. Some of the key programming is delivered in partnership with the SPS Foundation, CHEP, Breakfast Clubs of Canada, President's Choice Children's Charity and many others. But, as of right now, the division is unable to meet the full need.

Saskatoon Public Schools is currently using grant dollars from the Public Health Agency of Canada to fund a Good Food for Learning: Universal Lunch Program at some schools in our division. This program sets out a model that can be replicated across the city (and potentially the province).

"The additional funding is so welcome," says Norris. "I think everyone can get behind feeding kids and this is going to allow us to do that while simultaneously improving learning outcomes. It's no secret that children can't learn on empty stomachs."

Saskatoon Public Schools was recently co-awarded a [Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Santé Award](#) -celebrating health research excellence- for its work creating a model for a universal, curriculum-integrated school lunch program.

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