

Sarah Marshall  
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LD 577

I am a mother of 3 children who attend Ocean Avenue Elementary School in Portland Maine. One of my children receives additional support in Phonics as she struggles with spelling and it benefits her overall learning and school experience. We do not pay extra for this. One of my children receives additional support in reading and math as he excels in these subjects and it benefits his overall learning and school experience. We do not pay extra for this. All of my children receive free breakfast and lunch at school and it benefits their overall learning and school experience. We do not pay extra for this. Creating a culture of learning and a healthy school experience requires many pieces. Food is one of them.

I urge you, for the health of my children and their peers, to continue universal access to breakfast and lunch in Maine schools so we can offer the type of learning environments that are required for all our kids to succeed. This program, a leader in the nation, sets Maine apart as a State that strategically invests in its community and students through food programs.

All Maine kids deserve to learn with a full belly.