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LunchBites

• What's Going on in School Nutrition •

School Nutrition Growing Partnerships with Schools

Tower Gardens flourish at GEA and Central Office




Thank you Principal Boatright and Dr. Kerri Palmer for tending to the garden!

#FarmtoSchool

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Can you find these plants growing in the SNP Office Tower Garden? 

- Tomato Plants
- Purple Curly Leaf Kale
- Green Curly Leaf Kale
- Chives
- Marigold Seedlings
- Yellow Squash Seedlings



"Check out what's 'moo' with Farm to School!"



Legislative Action Conference

Representing School Nutrition Professionals at the Capitol

ADVOCACY

School Nutrition Director, Penny Fowler, and Coordinator, Emily House, attended the Georgia School Nutrition Association (GSNA) Legislative Action Conference (LAC) to speak to state and local legislators on behalf of Georgia Food Assistants and Managers. They focused on three main topics published in the GSNA state position paper, seen [here](#)



POSITION PAPER

The three main points of the paper are listed below:

1. GSNA requests that critical state funding for school nutrition be continued in order to maintain quality school nutrition programs.
2. Maintain funding of health insurance benefits for all school nutrition employees.
3. Increase the funding for the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) from the current \$14.75 to \$15.25 per year of service, to be included in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

Many school nutrition professionals are unaware of the different between federal and state issues pertaining to school nutrition programs. Instead of speaking on federal topics like sodium limits, whole grains, and fruit/vegetable consumption, school nutrition representatives at LAC discussed state issues affecting the program, such as the rising cost of employer contributions to health care premiums. As a self-sufficient entity, most school nutrition programs pay for these increased premium costs from their budgets, rather than it coming from the general fund. This directly impacts the student customers, as it cuts into the food budget. School Nutrition is united with GSNA in their mission to advance the availability, quality, and acceptance of school nutrition programs as an integral part of education.

LEGISLATORS

Penny and Emily had the privilege of meeting Governor Nathan Deal and Representative Matt Dubnik. They spoke to Representative Dubnik in regard to local school nutrition issues and invited him to visit the district for breakfast or lunch. Penny will be representing Gainesville and the state of Georgia at the national LAC conference in April in Washington, D.C.



Your favorite School Nutrition heroes have been busy this year!

Click on our Mid-Year Highlights Video: <https://youtu.be/HPEpv259TRE>

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