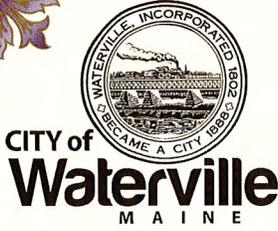


# Mayoral Proclamation

- Whereas** the School Breakfast Program has served our nation admirably since it was permanently established in 1975, and reaches some 14 million children across 91,000 schools and institutions in the United States each day; and
- Whereas** the School Breakfast Program meets the nutritional needs of children, improves food security, and advances child health and well-being by providing nutritionally balanced breakfasts to school children each day; and
- Whereas** school-aged children who experience hunger are more likely to be absent from school, visit the school nurse, and experience more challenges than children with a nutritious diet, and skipping breakfast has consistently been linked with worse academic and health outcomes for children; and
- Whereas** eating breakfast improves children's overall diets, builds healthy, lifelong eating habits, and enhances their ability to learn and perform academically; and
- Whereas** making breakfast a part of the school day, commonly known as Breakfast After the Bell, and offering breakfast to all students at no cost are desirable and effective ways to ensure more students realize the benefits of breakfast; and
- Whereas** the federal Community Eligibility Provision offers eligible schools the ability to serve breakfast to all students at no cost, increasing food security and academic outcomes, while also allowing schools to eliminate the collection of paper applications, reduce administrative costs, streamline meal service operations and increase the reimbursements schools receive from federal child nutrition programs; and
- Whereas** 10,889,846 breakfast meals were served in Maine in 2023, reaching 67,686 students; and
- Whereas** parents, caregivers, teachers, and school food personnel all play an essential role to ensure the children of Waterville have the basic resources needed to grow, learn, discover their own potential, and live happy fulfilling lives; and



# Mayoral Proclamation

**Whereas** No Kid Hungry offers information, tools, resources and grants to support schools in implementing and expanding school breakfast programs and the School Nutrition Association offers free materials to help schools commemorate "National School Breakfast Week" including artwork to decorate their meal serving areas, toolkits and handouts, sample menu items, marketing materials, and suggested promotional activities, including games, activities and contests; and

**Whereas** my administration is committed to helping expand access to and enhance current school breakfast programs to ensure that our children have the means to succeed.

**Now therefore**, I, Michael Morris, as Mayor of Waterville, Maine, on behalf of the City Council, and the residents of Waterville do hereby recognize March 4-8, 2024, as

## **School Breakfast Week.**

I encourage all residents of Waterville to recognize and commemorate school administrators, food service directors, and cafeteria staff who operate school breakfast programs that ensure the health, safety, and success of our children.

**In Witness Whereof**, I do hereby set my hand and seal this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, two thousand and twenty-four.

Michael Morris, Mayor

