



PRESS RELEASE

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**School Breakfast Reaching More Children in Michigan
Progress Increasing Nationally as More Low-Income Students Starting Day with Breakfast**

Flint, Mi – January 29, 2014 – A new national report finds that 322,901 low-income children in Michigan ate school breakfast during the 2012-2013 school year. This marks a 2% increase from the previous school year and demonstrates Michigan’s efforts to provide students with a healthy start to their day.

The School Breakfast Scorecard is released annually by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and measures the success of the School Breakfast Program at the national and state levels. The FRAC report finds that on an average school day in 2012-2013, 10.8 million low-income children participated in school breakfast, an increase of 311,000 from the previous year.

This increase is part of State Superintendent Mike Flanagan’s drive to increase school breakfast programs in the state. This drive has led him to issue a “First Fuel” breakfast challenge for the 2013-2014 school year. “I challenge all schools to help us reach our goal to have at least 60 percent of our students who participate in school lunch also participate in school breakfast.” When the Superintendent’s goal is met, Michigan will serve over 85 million school breakfasts per year.

“More children are eating school breakfast, that’s great news for children in our state. This progress should – and must- be sustained,” said Marybeth Laisure, Child Nutrition Program Coordinator of the Center on Civil Justice. “Approximately 50 percent of Michigan’s low-income children receive a free or reduced price meal. Low participation means missed meals for hungry children, something no-one wants. I urge all schools districts in Michigan to step up and meet the Superintendents “First Fuel” challenge.”

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