



SAVE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

For too many families, there are obstacles to providing a healthy morning meal each day. Tight budgets and busy schedules can mean that many students arrive at school hungry and not ready to learn. Fortunately, the School Nutrition Program plays a critical role in filling this void for 60,060 children and youth in 160 TCDSB schools every single day.

Research shows what we see every day in our schools: a well-nourished child who gets a healthy meal/snack is more likely to be a better learner. **You can't learn on an empty stomach so we need you to help save the program that feeds over 60,060 TCDSB students.**

You have likely heard in recent news reports about cuts to Toronto Public Health announced by the Provincial Government. Toronto Public Health provides 20% of all funding for the School Nutrition Program in both our Board, and the TDSB. The reduction of funding for health-related programs leaves nutrition programs and other public health services at risk. We know that these programs are valuable to our Catholic school communities.

According to City Officials these cuts could mean the end of student nutrition programs serving more than 210,000 meals to hungry kids in Toronto each day. We are asking you to act to protect these programs because this battle is unique. Mayor John Tory, Toronto Council, every Toronto Public Health Chair since amalgamation, Dr. David Mowat, Ontario's former Chief Medical Officer of Health, other municipalities and school boards in Ontario are united with TDSB and TCDSB to continue the delivery of the program for the health, education and well-being of our students.

If you are also concerned about these cuts, email Chair of TCDSB Maria Rizzo at maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org and I would be happy to direct your concerns to the appropriate officials. Alternatively, you may also want to reach out to your local MPP/ City Councillor, Mayor John Tory and the Minister of Health. It only takes a few minutes to call or email to ask them to retain nutrition programs for kids.

Minister of Health, Christine Elliot

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416-327-4300 or 905-853-9889

Mayor John Tory

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God bless you for helping to protect health, education and the well-being of our students in our city,

Maria Rizzo, TCDSB Chair