



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 31, 2017

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First Lady Frances Wolf Visits Mazie Gable Elementary School, Highlights Governor Wolf's Proposal to Increase Access to School Breakfast for PA Students

Harrisburg, PA – First Lady Frances Wolf today visited Mazie Gable Elementary School in Red Lion during school breakfast service. She greeted students and highlighted the importance of breakfast to ensure students have the start to the day that they need to be successful.

Governor Wolf's 2017-18 budget proposal includes an additional \$2 million to enhance Pennsylvania's existing school breakfast programs. This investment will help the commonwealth leverage tens of millions of dollars in federal funding and will go directly to schools to help them adopt and expand breakfast programs that work.

"Pennsylvania's greatest resource is our young people and the public schools – like Mazie Gable Elementary – that prepare them to be our future leaders," said First Lady Frances Wolf. "We must support them by providing the resources and opportunities they need to make the most of their education. However, one in five children in Pennsylvania currently struggle with hunger, which has an enormous impact on their ability to concentrate and perform well in school.

"That's why this investment to increase access to breakfast for more Pennsylvania students is so important. When children start the day with the nutrition they need, it has long-lasting consequences for the entire state – they grow up smarter, healthier, and stronger – and that means a smarter, healthier, stronger Pennsylvania."

Governor Wolf's school breakfast budget proposal would be administered through the [Pennsylvania Department of Education](#) as competitive grants to schools that adopt alternative breakfast delivery models, including "Breakfast After the Bell" programs in elementary schools and "Grab 'n' Go" models in middle and high schools. The funds will be targeted to schools with student populations with more than 60 percent of children receiving subsidized meals.

Last year, the Wolf Administration announced its food security plan, "[Setting the Table: A Blueprint to for a Hunger-Free PA.](#)" The plan lays out the administration's goals of providing all Pennsylvanians with access to healthy, nutritious food, which will improve their well-being, health, and independence. One of the key goals of the Blueprint is to increase access to and participation in school breakfast programs for students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch at school.

Studies show that breakfast impacts a variety of outcomes in our children – both in academic progress, as well as behavior and the number of visits to the school nurse every day. School breakfast is a smart investment that will have a lasting impact on our students and on Pennsylvania.

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