



FLORIDA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION, INC.

*To advance child nutrition programs that promote wellness and academic success,
while promoting leadership development opportunities to members*

The Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

April 13, 2021

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On March 31st you announced your proposal to provide \$1000 bonuses to public school principals and full-time classroom teachers to acknowledge their special contribution in returning to the classroom after lockdowns to teach students in person. This is a great idea for our courageous, hardworking teachers.

On behalf of the Florida School Nutrition Association we are writing you to ask that school nutrition personnel also receive a bonus, given that from the very beginning of the pandemic they worked to provide breakfasts and lunches to students who were at school, and also to students who were learning remotely. In the same way that classroom teachers answered the call to serve the needs of children and families: cafeteria managers, cooks and servers reported for duty at schools and put together healthy meals for children. They wore the PPE, configured meals despite packaging and food shortages, and personally handed hundreds of thousands of meals to children and their guardians.

The school nutrition program is a key component of the safety net that keeps children healthy, and thus, is the very foundation of their education and development. As you know food insecurity rose as the pandemic continued; our school nutrition personnel were keenly aware of this and remained on the front lines ensuring that children received meals.

Thank you for your strong commitment to education and the wellbeing of Florida's children. We urge you to consider including our dedicated school nutrition personnel in your bonus program.

Sincerely Yours,

Roy R. Pistone II, RDN, M.Ed., SNS
FSNA President 2020-2021 SY

Milton T. (Tim) Tankersley
FSNA Public Policy and
Legislative Committee Chair

Martina Bräwer
FSNA Executive Director

Cc Senator Wilton Simpson, President of the Florida Senate
Representative Chris Sprowls, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
Senator Kelli Stargel, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair
Representative Jay Trumbull, House Appropriations Committee Chair