



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

February 6, 2009

Dear Principal:

These are unprecedented times and the poor economy is taking its toll on an ever-growing number of families. WIC, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) and the Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Programs make it possible for children to have nutritious food, even in these difficult times.

It is critical that we continue to remind parents that these programs are available to them, as so many families struggle silently and are reluctant to ask for assistance. Here are some ways that you can help:

- Make copies of the enclosed flier to send home to all parents, have available in the offices and distribute at open houses; ✓
- Include the enclosed flier in your monthly newsletter or food service menu; *non*
- Post the information on your website and create a link to the WIC and SNAP websites;
- Include information about SNAP and WIC in your e-mail and automated phone messages;
- Mention the availability of these programs at staff meetings and parent meetings.

Thank you for your support. We know that hungry kids can not succeed in school. With your help, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Mary Kelligrew Kassler
Director
Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program

Diane M. Dickerson
Director of Emergency Food Resources
Project Bread – The Walk for Hunger