

Here are steps for contacting legislators and Governor Whitmer about 10 Cents a Meal:

Ask your legislators to call on legislative leaders—the Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the House, and Appropriations Committee members and chairs in both chambers — to move forward a supplemental budget process that includes:

- Restoring the legislature’s expanded \$2 million in funding for 10 Cents a Meal in the School Aid Budget
 - Expanding 10 Cents so it is available to school districts statewide, and
 - Adding in eligibility for sponsors of early child care centers.
1. If you have limited time, start with your own legislators, asking them to contact legislative leaders.
 2. And then call on Gov. Whitmer to respond affirmatively. Tell her why the program is valuable to you.

Here is where you can find contact information for your [legislators](#), [Senate leadership](#), [Senate Appropriations Committee members](#), [House leadership](#), [House Appropriations Committee Members](#), and [Governor Whitmer](#).

If you need more information about the impacts of 10 Cents a Meal, check out the [reports to the legislature](#) at tencentsmichigan.org.

Letter Templates and Tips for Personalizing Your Message

Need help in putting together a letter to Governor Whitmer and Michigan legislators to restore funding for 10 Cents a Meal? Below are a couple of sample letters.

Copy and use them as is, or consider adding a sentence as a second or third paragraph that says something about yourself and why you believe this is important.

For example:

This program is important to me because I am a family physician and I know that getting healthy food into the eating patterns of school children is crucial for their health now and in the future.

This program is important to me because I am a school food service director and it allows us flexibility to try new items with our students. We can serve a much greater variety of produce to our students with this program in place.

This program is important to me because I am a farmer and I have seen the farm to school market grow as an important way to grow my business.

This program is important to me because I am the parent of school children, and I want them to have flavorful, nutritious food in schools because they eat there every day! I also like investing in our local economy.

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am urging you to make sure that funding for the very important program known as “10 Cents a Meal” is restored to the state School Aid Budget. You originally included this program in your budget and recognized it in your policy priorities when you were campaigning to be governor.

As you know, 10 Cents a Meal is a matching grant program that helps schools purchase Michigan grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans. As an incentive match program, it ultimately doubles the state’s investment in Michigan’s economy. It also puts a wide variety of Michigan fruits and vegetables on the plates of our children, improving their health and well-being. The 10 Cents a Meal Program is an important investment in the health of our state’s children and the health of our local food and farm economy. It is a win for everyone!

This nationally recognized program has bipartisan support and endorsements from school, health, and farm advocates across the state. The budget approved by the Senate and House was poised to expand this program so it would finally be available to school districts and early childhood centers across the entire state.

Please support a supplemental budget that includes these measures:

- Restore the legislature’s expanded \$2 million in funding for 10 Cents a Meal (the Local Produce in Schools line item),
- Expand 10 Cents so it is available to school districts statewide, and
- Add in eligibility for sponsors of early child care centers.

Thank you for your previous support of 10 Cents. Please make sure it is funded and available for our children across the state.

Sincerely,

Dear (Senator or Representative),

I am urging you to make sure that funding for the very important program known as “10 Cents a Meal” is restored to the state School Aid Budget. The Senate and House originally included this program for expansion statewide. Thank you so much for that!

As you know, 10 Cents a Meal is a matching grant program that helps schools purchase Michigan grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans. As an incentive match program, it ultimately doubles the state’s investment in Michigan’s economy. It also puts a wide variety of Michigan fruits and vegetables on the plates of our children, improving their health and well-being. The 10 Cents a Meal Program is an important investment in the health of our state’s children and the health of our local food and farm economy. It is a win for everyone!

This nationally recognized program has bipartisan support and endorsements from school, health, and farm advocates across the state. The budget approved by the Senate and House was poised to expand this program so it would finally be available to school districts and early childhood centers across the entire state.

Please act soon and support a supplemental budget that includes these measures:

- Restore the legislature’s expanded \$2 million in funding for 10 Cents a Meal (the Local Produce in Schools line item),
- Expand 10 Cents so it is available to school districts statewide, and
- Add in eligibility for sponsors of early child care centers.

Thank you for your previous support of 10 Cents. Please make sure it is funded and available for our children across the state.

Sincerely,