

Resolution in Favor of Universal Meals for All

WHEREAS on _____, 2023, the Arlington School Committee voted [unanimously] to support the *Act Relative to Universal School Meals - HD766, SD1013*;

WHEREAS the Arlington School Committee recognizes that food insecurity is pervasive and that it has a detrimental effect on the health and wellness of the students in our care;

WHEREAS access to good nutrition reduces school absences and elevates student performance;

WHEREAS our mission is to ensure equity, excellence and access for rigorous learning experiences for all students in a stigma-free environment;

WHEREAS we believe that school meals are the ultimate foundational cornerstone that underpins all students' ability to access the education they deserve;

WHEREAS, food insecurity rates in Massachusetts remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels and may rise more with the end of federal support programs;

WHEREAS the Arlington School Committee, as the democratically elected body with exclusive local control of public schools, must press on the Town, State, and Federal governments to supply us with the revenues we need to meet our obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arlington School Committee:

1. Join the FeedKids Coalition as a member organization in urging the Massachusetts State Legislature to make free school meals permanent;
2. Directs the Chair to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: Governor Maura Healey, State Senator Cindy Friedman, State Representative Dave Rogers, and State Representative Sean Garballey
3. Directs the Chair to transmit an official copy of this resolution to the Arlington Select Board
4. Directs the Chair to transmit an official copy of this resolution to the Town Manager

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____ month, _____ year.

Signed: _____.

Chair, Arlington School Committee