

July 21, 2026

Dear Seattle City Council Members:

On behalf of our group, we write in strong support of the Families, Education, Preschool & Promise (FEPP) Levy and Amendment #6 with providing food assistance to low-income families on school breaks.

In 1990, former Mayor Norm Rice crafted the Families and Education Levy to help close equity gaps that were preventing many Seattle children from low-income families, students of color, English language learners, and other historically under resourced communities from achieving the same educational outcomes as their peers.

We support the sequenced approach outlined in Amendment #6 because it recognizes that food insecurity does not begin and end with the school day. Hunger continues on weekends, during school breaks, and throughout the summer. By sequencing implementation, the City has an opportunity to build a more comprehensive program.

This approach also recognizes the realities facing communities that continue to experience disproportionately high rates of food insecurity, particularly with students in under resourced communities and students of color. While 51 of the 105 Seattle Public Schools already provide universal meals through existing federal and state programs, many families still struggle to access nutritious food outside of the school day.

Divesting funds that are intended for closing opportunity gaps for students of color is institutional racism, whether subtly or overtly.

Amendment #6 helps ensure that resources reach the children and families with the greatest need while building a strong, sustainable foundation for a citywide universal school meals program. Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to Seattle's children and families. We urge your support for Amendment #6.

Sincerely,

