

September 9, 2024

Board of Health  
City Hall, Committee Room 1  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Critical Need For Universal Student Nutrition**

**Summary**

In Toronto, 28% of food bank users are children and youth, leading to more kids going to school on an empty stomach. Hunger impedes learning, making it difficult for students to concentrate on their education. Student nutrition programs play a crucial role by providing meals at school, allowing children to focus on their lessons rather than their hunger. As grocery prices rise and more families rely on food banks, it is imperative that funding flow to address student nutrition immediately.

**Councillor Moise recommends that the Board of Health:**

1. Forward this item to City Council without recommendations
2. Request the Medical Officer of Health report directly to the October 9, 2024 meeting of City Council with a phased in plan to implement a universal school food program in January 2025 if federal funds flow by November 2024, including prioritization of the more than forty school communities that recently applied for a program and were denied due to lack of funding.

Chris Moise  
City Councillor  
Ward 13 - Toronto Centre