

## WEST VIRGINIA FEED TO ACHIEVE

To address the issue of childhood hunger throughout our state, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 663 in April 2013, creating the **West Virginia Feed to Achieve Act**. The bill, sponsored by Senator John R. Unger, was signed into law by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. It focuses on improving the nutrition and health of West Virginia's children. The need for the bill was simple: **every child needs nutritious meals in order**

**to achieve his or her potential**. The West Virginia Feed to Achieve Act has ensured that every school-aged child is given the nutritious meals that their growing bodies require in order to succeed in life.

**West Virginia is the first state in the nation to pass and implement into law a bill that puts children's health and nutrition in the forefront of education.** Research has found that students who participate in school breakfast show improved attendance, behavior, standardized achievement test scores as well as decreased tardiness<sup>2,3</sup>. *The Feed to Achieve Act* has realigned breakfast with the instructional day, giving every student the chance to eat a nutritious school breakfast. With this law, the West Virginia Legislature recognized the connection between student health and academic success.

