

SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

The Regional Food Bank's School Pantry program partners with middle and high schools to provide a flexible food pantry model where participating students can choose the foods they'd like based on their individual needs, preferences, and cooking ability.

Schools order the food that they feel will be most beneficial for participating students and fits within their program's budget.

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Over 340 food insecure children were served during the 2018-19 school year.
- Distributed the equivalent of 39,300 meals directly into the hands of hungry children.
- 2,500 pounds of fresh produce were distributed to students through the program during 2018-19
- Feedback from students has shown that food is typically shared, helping to meet the nutritional needs of the entire household.

PROGRAM MODEL

- Offers non perishable, fresh, frozen, and refrigerated options
- Is referral based to target students who would most benefit from the program
- Is flexible in design based on each school's capacities and limitations
- Meets student's immediate food needs
- Gives students choice in food selection based on their preference, familiarity, and preparation ability
- Students can be served on an as needed basis, or return each week if necessary.



SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM

- The average price per bag, per student is \$5.63
- The average yearly price per student is \$169
- Programs are typically run for 30 weeks
- Schools can adjust the cost of the program to fit their budget based on food ordered

ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM

- Students can choose some or all of the components of the bag based on their preference and level of need
- Different foods can be purchased through the Food Bank to ensure variety and choice
- Fresh fruit and bread are available free of charge

SAMPLE BAG

- The contents of each bag can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students.
- An average bag can include the following:

| COMPONENTS | ITEM |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| BREAKFAST 1 | Toasted Oats Cereal |
| BREAKFAST 2 | Corned Beef Hash |
| ENTRÉE 1 | Meat Ravioli |
| ENTRÉE 2 | Spaghetti Os |
| ENTRÉE 3 | Rice |
| FRUIT | Fresh Pears |
| CANNED VEGETABLE | Green Beans |
| BREAD | Penne |
| STEWART'S MILK CARD | 1 gallon |
| SNACK ITEMS | Popcorn |

PARTNERING WITH THE FOOD BANK

Partnering with the Regional Food Bank helps schools provide critical nutrition to food insecure students in a manner that is respectful, discrete, and best meets their needs.

The Regional Food Bank draws from its large inventory to provide nourishing foods at a low cost to each program. Additionally, the Regional Food Bank is a resource for schools providing administrative structure and support for the program.

Partner schools work with the Regional Food Bank to develop implementation plans including referring students in the program, preparing and stocking the pantry space, ordering food, and distributing to students.

Together, schools and the Regional Food Bank help students learn, thrive and grow both in and outside of the classroom.

For additional information about School Pantry, please contact:
Children's Programs Department

The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York

518-786-3691

