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

- The School Pantry program operated in 33 schools throughout the 2020-2021 school year and served over 650 children.
- During the 2020-21 school year, School Pantry programs distributed over 300,000 pounds of food; the equivalent of 250,000 meals to needy students.
- School Pantry sites ordered over 25,000 pounds of fresh produce during the 2020-21 school year.
- The School Pantry program was a critical food intervention during the statewide COVID school closure, as schools could order the foods that their students needed most.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENTS</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BREAKFAST 1</td>
<td>Toasted Oats Cereal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAKFAST 2</td>
<td>Corned Beef Hash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTRÉE 1</td>
<td>Meat Ravioli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTRÉE 2</td>
<td>Spaghetti Os</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTRÉE 3</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRUIT</td>
<td>Fresh Pears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANNED VEGETABLE</td>
<td>Green Beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAD</td>
<td>Penne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEWART'S MILK CARD</td>
<td>1 gallon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNACK ITEMS</td>
<td>Popcorn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional information about School Pantry, please contact:
Children’s Programs Department
The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York
SPinformation@regionalfoodbank.net
518-786-3691