

School Pantry Program

"Thanks to the School Pantry Program, I am able to provide food to 30 diverse students. In addition to canned/boxed staple foods, we can provide fresh produce, meat, dairy, and many other household staples. Fighting food insecurity is an uphill battle, especially now with rising food and gas prices. We are so thankful for the School Pantry Program!"

-School Pantry Coordinator

Program Description:

The School Pantry Program partners with middle and high schools to provide a flexible food pantry model where participating students can choose the foods they would like based on their individual needs, preferences, and cooking ability. Schools order the food they feel will be most beneficial for participating students and fits within their program's budget.

Program at a Glance:

- Offers non-perishable, fresh, frozen, and refrigerated options
- Operates for throughout the school year
- 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 students' immediate food needs
- Gives students choice in food selection based on their preference, familiarity, and preparation ability
- Students can be served weekly or on an as-needed basis



2021-2022 Program Impact



**1,800 children
served
weekly**



**240,000
meals
distributed**



**35,000 pounds
of fresh
produce
provided**



**56
partner
schools**



**Average bag
weighs 14 bs,
containing food
for 11+ meals**



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Administering the Program:

- The average cost per bag is \$7.56. Schools can adjust the contents of the bag (and thus the cost of the bag) to fit their budget based on food ordered.
- Schools can order food from the Food Bank as frequently as needed.
- Students can choose some or all of the components of the bag based on their preference and level of need.
- Different foods can be ordered through the Food Bank to ensure variety and choice
- Fresh fruit and bread are available at no cost.



Fast Fact: Schools report that the School Pantry program helps build relationships with students and families.

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

Partner schools work with the 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 Food Bank help students learn, thrive and grow both in and out of the classroom.

\$226 supports one child for a year

\$3,390 supports 15 students for a year

\$6,780 supports 30 students for a year

Contact: Betsy Dickson at (518) 786-3691 x233



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