

# 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 preferences
- 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



## 2022-2023 Program Impact



1,800 children  
served



260,000  
meals  
distributed



37,000 pounds  
of fresh  
produce  
provided



58  
partner  
schools



Average bag  
weighs 14 lbs,  
containing food  
for 11+ meals



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## Administering the Program:

- School Pantries can be located in cabinets, closets or classrooms, depending on each school's space availability.
- Schools can order food from the Food Bank as frequently as needed, with no minimum or maximum order size.
- Schools have full choice in the foods they order to ensure variety and choice for students
- Schools are encouraged to allow choice for students but student choice is not required
- The average annual cost of School Pantry per school is \$2,789. Schools order food based on their available budget. The cost of the program is exclusively the cost of the purchased food.



***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 has a large inventory of staple food items to provide nourishing foods to each school.

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.

Additionally, the Regional Food Bank is a resource for schools providing administrative structure and support for the Program.

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

**\$232 supports a School Pantry Program for 1 month**

**\$928 supports a School Pantry Program for a semester**

**\$2,789 supports a School Pantry Program for 1 year**

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



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