

# SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM



## PROGRAM GOALS AND MISSION

- The School Pantry Program is a food assistance program that meets the unique needs of middle and high school students struggling with hunger during the academic year.
- Food for the program is easy-to-prepare, balanced, and coordinated so students can select foods best suited to their preferences and needs.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

- Partners with schools to serve students based on each student's individual food needs
- Over 1,800 bags were distributed during the 2017-2018 school year, the equivalent of meals 10,800 meals.
- 706 pounds of fresh produce were distributed to students during 2017-2018.
- 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
- Can be 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
- Is open to feedback from participating schools, students, and their families
- Gives students choice in food selection based on their preference, familiarity, and preparation capacity.
- 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, per week is \$5.63
- The average yearly price is \$169/student
- 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 will be added as 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	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 preparing and stocking the pantry space, distributing to students, and providing feedback on the program.

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**

