



Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
Date: March 7, 2025

It's been said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day—and for good reason! At Bay District Schools, we are getting ready to celebrate School Breakfast Week the first week of March, and it's the perfect time to highlight the important role that breakfast plays in setting our students up for success each day.

Bay District Schools' Commitment

We are proud to offer nutritious breakfast options in our schools, ensuring that every child has access to a healthy start. Our food service provider, Chartwells, prepares fresh and nutritious breakfasts that the students enjoy, and the wide variety of menu items, programs and initiatives nourish student's bodies and minds.

Currently, 29 of our schools are 100% eligible to offer free breakfast and lunch to all their students. Students in other schools can apply for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. For a list of the schools offering free meals as well as the application for free or reduced meals, just go to the BDS Food Service page on our website (<https://bay.k12.fl.us/parent-lunch>).

Why School Breakfast Matters

A nutritious, well-balanced breakfast sets the stage for a day of learning and achievement. According to the Food Research & Action Center, students who eat breakfast show a significant improvement in concentration, memory, and test scores. In fact, breakfast-eating students score up to 17.5% higher on standardized tests. A healthy breakfast helps students achieve their daily nutritional needs and improve their overall health.

A Snapshot of the Impact of School Breakfast in Bay District Schools

- Over 26% of our students participate in the school breakfast program each morning.
- For the 2023-2024 school year, Bay District Schools served over 832,945 school breakfasts to students.
- We serve an average of 5,300 nutritious breakfasts each day.

During School Breakfast Week, we encourage all students and families to make breakfast a priority. Thank you for your ongoing support of the health and academic success of our students. Together, we will continue to ensure that our students have the nutrition they need to thrive and put the "A" back in Bay!