

SOS teams up to support school breakfast programs

By Elissa Elan

<http://www.nrn.com/article.aspx?id=336838>

WASHINGTON (Mar. 19) —Anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength has teamed up with the Got Breakfast Foundation to distribute grants totaling \$35,000 to four school districts in an attempt to help serve morning meals in the classroom to children of low-income families nationwide.

The distribution of the grants, which are among the first available to schools across the country, was announced March 5 during the release of Got Breakfast's new Classroom Breakfast Playbook, a survey and manual written by Tami Cline, the organization's executive director and a registered dietitian. The playbook features the opinions of several school foodservice directors that eating breakfast through the nation's federally funded School Breakfast Program raises test scores, reduces health issues and improves academic performance.



Recipients of the grants were Balboa High School in San Francisco; Langley Park McCormick Elementary School in Prince George's County, Md.; Friendship Public Charter Schools of Washington, D.C.; and another school to be determined at a later date.

"Millions of underserved children around the country are not eating breakfast before the school day, and studies show that serving breakfast in the classroom breaks down many of the traditional barriers to getting students the most important meal of the day," said Pat Nicklin, managing director of Share Our Strength. "Our grants will serve as a catalyst for providing classroom breakfasts throughout the country and in the process improve the test scores and overall performance of our students. This investment will make the difference in giving hungry children the breakfast they may otherwise not receive."

The Got Breakfast Foundation was created to help students who qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast gain easier access to those meals. The organization contends that of 55 million children who attend school in the United States, 30 million participate in the National School Lunch Program and only 9.6 million eat breakfast at school.

"A combined effort among foodservice directors, principals, teachers and other school officials is vital in making classroom breakfast a success, and we hope that through our efforts we can educate as many people as possible to help reach the millions of students who need breakfast the most," Cline said.