

news & views

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“got breakfast?” Foundation Announces New Grants for School Districts

On Monday, March 5, the start of National School Breakfast Week, the “got breakfast?” Foundation announced two major initiatives aimed at feeding the millions of low-income children across the country who do not eat breakfast.

The first announcement was of “got breakfast?” grants given in conjunction with anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength to four school districts to help them implement the Classroom Breakfast method of serving meals to students. The grants are the first of a series available to schools nationwide that are interested in implementing Classroom Breakfast. The second announcement was the release of the Classroom Breakfast Playbook, an informational survey and manual written by the “got breakfast?” Foundation with Executive Director Tami Cline, a well-known registered dietician. The booklet summarizes studies and the opinions of foodservice directors across the country that prove Classroom Breakfast raises test scores; reduces health issues; and doubles, and

in some cases triples, participation numbers in the federal School Breakfast Program.

Research proves that principals, teachers, food-service directors, and custodial staff agree Classroom Breakfast positively affects the ability to learn and results in increased test scores, fewer visits to the school nurse and fewer student disciplinary problems. The School Breakfast Program provides Federal reimbursement to schools for each meal served, so when schools increase the number of students eating breakfast, schools will see an increase in funds. According to the Food Research and Action Center, more than \$500 million in federal funds available to provide school breakfast to children in need are not being accessed. For more information about the grants or the Playbook, please visit www.strength.org.

