



School Pantry

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

AUGUST 2018



Together,
we can solve
hunger.

During the school year, families and school-age children have access to emergency food in an environment that is both familiar and supportive. Pantries stock popular, easy-to prepare food items such as fruit, canned tuna, peanut butter and pasta.

Recognizing The Need

Early in the Backpack program, the Foodbank staff recognized that more than 80% of participating students were sharing their weekend food with siblings and parents. Rather than make more food available in the packs, program specialists decided that a better solution would be to provide families with food through a pantry set up inside the school where access would be convenient for students and family alike. Since its inception in 2010, the School Pantry program has been responsible for distributing more than a million pounds of food to families in need.

Solving Childhood Hunger

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

35, 13	participating schools and counties
2,087	total households served
56%	of people served were children
199,479	pounds of food distributed

Survey Results Tell the Story

- **96%** of parents agreed that without the School Pantry program, their family would have to skip one or more meals.
- **96%** of parents said the program had made a positive difference in the well-being of their family.
- **81%** of parents said program participation improved their overall communication with the school.

Promoting Student and Family Engagement

School staff notes that the School Pantry program has improved relationships and communication with families. Moreover, participating families consistently show an increased interest in their child's academic performance, as well as greater awareness of school events in general.



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“I have heard on several occasions students say that having the food pantry makes them feel like the school really cares about them and the other students.”

– School Coordinator

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“The food pantry helps to not only feed families but to create a sense of community at our school.”

– School Coordinator

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“We love having the food pantry at our school! It has helped so many of our families in times of need. The fresh fruit and produce is always well received and much appreciated.”

–School Coordinator

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The Idaho Foodbank is an independent, donor-supported, nonprofit organization founded in 1984, and is the largest distributor of free food assistance in Idaho. From warehouses in Boise, Lewiston and Pocatello, the Foodbank distributes around 1.5 million pounds of food each month through a network of more than 400 community partners. These include schools, food pantries, emergency shelters, feeding sites, and senior centers. The Foodbank also operates direct-service programs that promote healthy families and communities through good nutrition.



For additional information about the School Pantry program, visit our website:
idahofoodbank.org/programs

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