

## **2017-18 School Breakfast Mini-Grant**

Grant Overview: The Pennsylvania Department of Education is announcing the availability of \$900,000 for the 18-19 School Year to be awarded to schools to implement or expand the use of an alternative breakfast program service method, such as grab-n-go breakfast, breakfast in the classroom, 2nd chance breakfast during study halls, etc. The goal of the grant funding is for each awarded school to increase and sustain breakfast participation by 20% over breakfast participation from October 2017.

Research shows that student behavior, mental health, academic success, physical health, attendance, and punctuality are improved when students start their day with a nutritious breakfast. Research also shows that students are more likely to participate in school breakfast when the meal is more accessible and convenient to the students, such as grab-n-go breakfast, breakfast in the classroom, 2nd chance breakfast during study halls, etc. These are referred to as alternative serving methods.

When breakfast is integrated as part of the school day throughout the building and easily accessible, students are more likely to participate. Traditional serving methods (student must go to cafeteria to receive/eat the breakfast meal) are often stigmatizing, segregating, and can deter broad range participation.

Amount of Award: Up to \$5,000 per school.

Due Date/Notification of Award: Due April 6, 2018. Notification on May 11, 2018.

Alternatives if not Awarded: The proposed equipment will not be purchased without the grant funding.

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit School Breakfast Mini-Grant applications for any WCSD school that meets the eligibility requirements and can achieve the expected goal of increased and sustained breakfast participation of 20% over 2017.