

EXPANDING BREAKFAST DELIVERS RESULTS DISTRICT-WIDE PROGRAM HAS INCREASES OF 64%



DISTRICT:	Newberry County Schools, Newberry, S.C.
SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONAL:	Ann McConnell, Food Service Director
FREE/REDUCED RATE:	64%
ENROLLMENT:	5,920
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS:	11
NUMBER OF EXPANDING BREAKFAST SCHOOLS:	10
IMPLEMENTED EXPANDING BREAKFAST:	2006
ALTERNATE BREAKFAST SERVICE:	Breakfast in the Classroom

★ BACKGROUND

Ann McConnell, Food Service Director for Newberry County Schools, has been working hard to reach more students by providing the nutrition they need to do well in school and in life. By introducing Breakfast in the Classroom, breakfast participation rates have soared and the school and community are very appreciative of the program.

★ IMPLEMENTATION

McConnell started small at just one elementary school before rolling the program out to all the County's schools. In 2007-2008 all but one of Newberry County's eleven schools are participating in the program.

★ IMPACT

During the 2006-2007 school year, the district served an average of 2,552 breakfasts per school day. In 2007-2008 that number has jumped to 4,191 — an increase of 64%. With 2 out of 3 students in the district starting their day with breakfast at school, the district is pleased with the program and hopes it continues to grow.

Using Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School as an example of the districts' reaction to Breakfast in the Classroom, the following statement is from its Strategic Action Plan Report to the School Board, "The Breakfast in the Classroom program, presently in our third year, has helped increase attendance and decrease tardiness; greatly reduced or eliminated students coming to the health room for stomachaches and headaches from hunger pains; increased opportunities for classroom community meetings in social situations; and has helped to build community in the whole school environment, resulting in a decrease in discipline referrals and the number and types of infractions."

Prosperity-Rikard's Principal, Timothy Lyden, comments, "Students and teachers certainly love it. It was met with some resistance from teachers in the beginning, thinking they would have more to do. We made the process smooth and easy by creating a breakfast/lunch slip with students' names to make the ordering seamless. I just did a new student building tour this week. As we walked around talking about our school I informed the mom about our Breakfast in the Classroom program and that her son would get breakfast each morning at no cost and he would eat with his classmates in the classroom. The student's response was 'Cool!' and the mother's response was just a big smile knowing that her son was taken care of and was starting the day right. These are not uncommon responses from new arrivals. So many times I hear parents talking about our school to others in the community

or visitors. More than likely the breakfast we do comes up in conversation and parents are very proud to let others know about our program, that it is in the classroom, how everyone eats, and how well accepted it is by everyone in the building."