

#### Nourishing Kids

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# Project Background

- Nourishing Kids
- Boston Public Schools proposes to improve the health and education outcomes of students.

## Background continued

- Over 57,000 students attend Boston Public Schools at 127 locations. Over 80% qualify for free or reduced meals, exacerbated by a local economy which has a 31% higher cost of living than the national average. Over 17% of Boston families live below the poverty level compared to a 11% national average. Poverty is a risk factor for becoming overweight, obese, and having poor health, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and asthma. This past school year, over 40% of the student population were overweight or obese.
- Director, Food and Nutrition Services

## Aims & target population

#### Increase

- access to breakfast for all students in grades K-8
- breakfast participation in grades K-8 to 80% or more

#### Integrate

- breakfast after-the-bell to all students in grades K-
- Integrate nutrition education to all students in grades K-8
- Reduce processing in foods
- Target Population: Boston Public Schools students enrolled in grades K-8

## Key activities

- Grant applications: Newman's Own Foundation, Food Research and Action Council, Fuel up to Play 60, New England Dairy and Food Council, Eos Foundation
- Develop a comprehensive approach to a versatile solution
- Establish standards of prohibited ingredients
- Farm to school initiatives
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

#### Outcomes

- Establish life-long healthy eating habits
- Replace a chaotic environment with a welcoming, calm, organized, nutritional routine
- Provide setting for one-on-one interactions between students and adults in addition to interactions among students
- Setting tone for successful day of learning

- Key strategies
  - Coordinate grant funding
  - Enlist stakeholders
  - Build energy
- Short term action steps (Year One)
  - Hire grant writer
  - Develop Request for Proposal (RFP)
  - Review RFP at cross functional team meeting
  - Develop budget
  - Receive funding approval

- Short term action steps (Year One) continued
  - Hire Project Manager/staff
  - Utilize school-based Wellness Action Councils to develop systems team
  - Establish test models at select schools
  - Evaluate test models
  - Prepare for implementation of first cohort of schools
  - Report to Boston Public Schools, grant funders, and others

- Long term action steps (Year Two)
  - Launch first cohort of 20 schools
  - Implement nutrition education and promotion
  - Implement student engagement activities

- Long term action steps (Year Three)
  - Continue the program in the first cohort of schools (Year Two)
  - Launch the remaining cohort of schools
  - Maintain nutrition education and promotion
  - Maintain student engagement activities

#### Conclusion

- Funding Partners:
  - Fuel up to Play (New England Food and Dairy Council)
  - Newman's Own Foundation
  - Project Bread
  - Eos Foundation
  - Food Research and Action Council
- Next Steps:
  - Coordinate known funding sources
  - Plan SY14