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**Walmart Foundation Strengthens Commitment to Academic Excellence
In Hempstead School District through the District's School Breakfast Initiative**

(Hempstead, NY) – September 1, 2015 – The Hempstead School District announced that breakfast will become available to students throughout the district through a grant from the [Walmart Foundation](#). HPS is one of 11 school districts nationwide receiving grants as part of a \$10.5 million initiative the Foundation is giving this fall to support school feeding and nutrition education programs.

Studies have shown that children are not enrolled in the program for a number of reasons—either because they do not want to be seen eating breakfast in the cafeteria, their parents do not have sufficient information about the program or understand that they are eligible to participate, or transportation to get the child to school in time for breakfast is not available.

“Our work as Superintendents reaches far beyond what transpires in the classroom,” said David T. Lindenmuth, superintendent, Clayton, N.J., a grant awardee. “Fulfilling the basic needs of our students is vital. Providing a meal for hungry children gives us a thorough perspective about how we can and should help our underserved students.”

“Proper nutrition for our nation’s youth underpins the instruction they are receiving in their classrooms—and it starts with a healthy breakfast,” said Karrie Denniston, director of hunger relief and nutrition for the [Walmart Foundation](#). “We are proud to work with an organization that represents school system leadership to help more students nationwide gain access to fuel needed to support learning. This important work is part of our larger commitment to helping provide 4 million people with nutrition education, and to help provide 4 billion meals to people in need over the next five years.”

AASA, The School Superintendent Association, oversees this school breakfast initiative and works to support where learning happens by providing assistance to school districts to ensure healthy, safe and engaged students. Learn more at: www.aasa.org/ChildrensPrograms.aspx.

Districts were eligible for the grant based on low breakfast participation and a high free/reduced meal rate. In addition, Superintendents needed to be members of AASA. Each successful application indicated a plan to serve breakfast in an alternative way – either in the classroom or through a grab and go model using kiosks or vending machines in the hallway so that more children have the opportunity to eat.



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