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Lt. Governor Guadagno Announces New Jersey Saw Highest Increase in School Breakfast Participation in the Nation

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Lt. Governor and Agriculture Secretary Visit Lafayette School to Celebrate Breakfast After the Bell Program

Trenton, NJ – Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today visited a fourth-grade class at Bound Brook’s Lafayette School to announce that New Jersey had a 12.9% increase in school breakfast participation last year, the highest in the nation.

“I am proud to be here today to talk about the importance of school breakfast and highlight the dramatic improvements in New Jersey. In 2011, we were ranked 48th in the nation for school breakfast participation. That was unacceptable,” said Lt. Governor Guadagno. “Thanks to Secretary Fisher and the Department of Education, New Jersey is now ranked 28th. Let’s keep the momentum of the Breakfast After the Bell program going and nourish even more children here in Bound Brook and across the State.”

Compared to the 2010-2011 school year, New Jersey’s national school breakfast participation rank has risen from 48th to 28th, according to The Food Research and Action Center.

“The Department of Agriculture has made significant progress in increasing the number of students participating in this important program statewide by supporting and fostering districts’ efforts to serve breakfast after the bell,” said Secretary Fisher. “We will continue to make it a priority to bring wider access to breakfast for more students so they can begin the day nourished and ready to learn.”

In 2013, about 12% of students in the Bound Brook School District ate school breakfast in the cafeteria before the school day. After the district instituted a Breakfast After the Bell program in January 2014 to serve breakfast in the classroom at the beginning of the school day, 83% of students now eat a healthy school breakfast, an increase of 1,191 children.

Bound Brook Assistant School Superintendent Robert Nixon noted that the change in the way breakfast is served has had a positive impact on the school environment. “Students are more punctual when it comes to arriving to school,” said Nixon. “It also supports our responsive classroom initiative where students can sit together and share a meal to get the day started as opposed to jumping right into the curriculum.”

New Jersey’s Department of Agriculture received \$250,000 from the USDA in 2013 to provide subgrants to local educational agencies to establish, maintain or expand their School Breakfast Program. New Jersey was one of only five states to receive funding. The Department awarded Bound Brook School District a \$10,000 school breakfast grant, the maximum allotted subgrant amount.

“Good nutrition is as critical to a child’s overall success as the curriculum our schools teach every day,” said Patricia Dombroski, Administrator, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Mid-Atlantic Region. “We applaud Bound Brook School District for their Breakfast After the Bell program, which proves the modern School Breakfast Program can be easily

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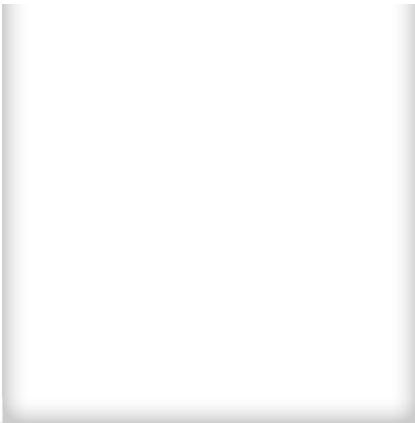


Championing School Breakfast
April 16, 2015 - Bound Brook

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tailored to meet the needs of all age groups, school schedules and physical environments.”

The USDA's School Breakfast Program provides a nutritious start to each school day for nearly 13.2 million children in over 88,000 schools nationwide. For more information on New Jersey's School Breakfast Program, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/school_breakfast.html.



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