

SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The School Breakfast Clubs Program is designed to support students in every Victorian Government school. The below information will help your school run it successfully.

THE BASICS

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS PROGRAM?

The School Breakfast Clubs Program is a Victorian Government commitment, delivered by Foodbank Victoria. Schools can receive weekly deliveries of nutritious food items, ensuring that all students can access breakfast at school, helping them fully take part in learning and social activities. The program also provides access to snacks and lunches for students who require additional support at school, and home food packs for students and families in need. It is available to all government schools across the state.

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION?

The only requirements are:

1. Your breakfast club must be available to all students.
2. Students cannot be charged for attending breakfast club.
3. All products supplied through the School Breakfast Clubs Program must be used within the school environment and cannot be on-sold or used in any paid programs or fundraisers, including in canteens or Outside School Hours Care environments.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

The program is free. All items available through the program are ordered and delivered to your school at no cost to you.

WHAT PRODUCTS CAN MY SCHOOL ACCESS?

Your school can receive weekly deliveries of nourishing food including:

- **Breakfast items** - to set up a breakfast club for all students at school.
- **Snack and lunch items** - to offer to identified students who do not have access to nutritious food or a sufficient lunch during the school day.
- **Home food packs** - to provide to identified students who require additional access to food at home.

WE ALREADY HAVE A BREAKFAST CLUB RUNNING, DO I REALLY NEED THIS PROGRAM?

The free School Breakfast Clubs Program is a valuable way to further extend your existing breakfast club offerings. We recommend signing up, having a look at our ordering portal, and ordering some new items that you think your students will love.

WE CAN'T SET UP A BREAKFAST CLUB RIGHT NOW, IS IT BETTER FOR MY SCHOOL TO SIGN UP LATER?

We recommend signing up now and starting small! You can start by ordering fresh fruit as a fresh and easy breakfast option, or having snacks available for students who require additional support throughout the day. You can also access lunch items to have on hand for identified students, and home food packs for students who may need additional support at home.

RESOURCING THE PROGRAM

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH SPACE – WHERE WILL OUR SCHOOL RUN IT?

If space is an issue, never fear! Consider using a classroom, multipurpose room or outdoor space, with products set up ready for students to take with them - grab and go style. Some schools set up a trestle table in a communal area with food items available in the mornings, while others have provided a library trolley with fresh fruit to yard duty staff members. Some even have items available on a trolley or shelving outside of classrooms and wellbeing spaces. See what works best for you, in the space that you have.

WE DON'T THINK THERE IS A NEED FOR THIS PROGRAM IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Right around the world, cost of living pressures have risen. These pressures impact everyone, and every school community has students who face challenges that aren't always visible. The School Breakfast Clubs Program is designed to support all schools by providing resources that can make a real difference for students in need. Even if a formal breakfast club isn't currently required, registering for the program ensures you have these supports available when needed, allowing you to respond quickly and compassionately to individual circumstances. In addition to providing food relief, the program has also been shown to improve student attendance, offers leadership opportunities and can be used to support students with school transition challenges. It is also a great social connector for staff, students and families.

GRAB AND GO



WE DON'T HAVE STAFF TO RUN IT, HOW CAN WE SET UP A BREAKFAST CLUB?

The School Breakfast Clubs Program can be an excellent way to involve students as well as the broader community. Consider promoting breakfast club as a life-skills opportunity, encouraging students to volunteer to serve up breakfast for their peers. Some schools have also embedded the program into their curriculum with students running the club as part of VCAL, hospitality or food technology classes, with students responsible for planning, ordering, serving, stocktake, advertising and rostering.

Volunteers can also be a great asset, bringing different skills, experience and connecting students to the wider community. Consider inviting parents and other community members to support the program as volunteers. Just ensure that your school has a policy in place for recruiting, screening and managing volunteers.

Check out our School Breakfast Clubs 'Starting the Program' resources, for additional support when recruiting volunteers.

WHAT OTHER RESOURCES WILL MY SCHOOL NEED TO RUN A BREAKFAST CLUB?

Check out our School Breakfast Clubs 'Starting the Program' resources, for a checklist of equipment, crockery and storage that your school might like to consider when setting up a breakfast club.

HOW CAN WE ACCESS MORE FUNDING OR SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM?

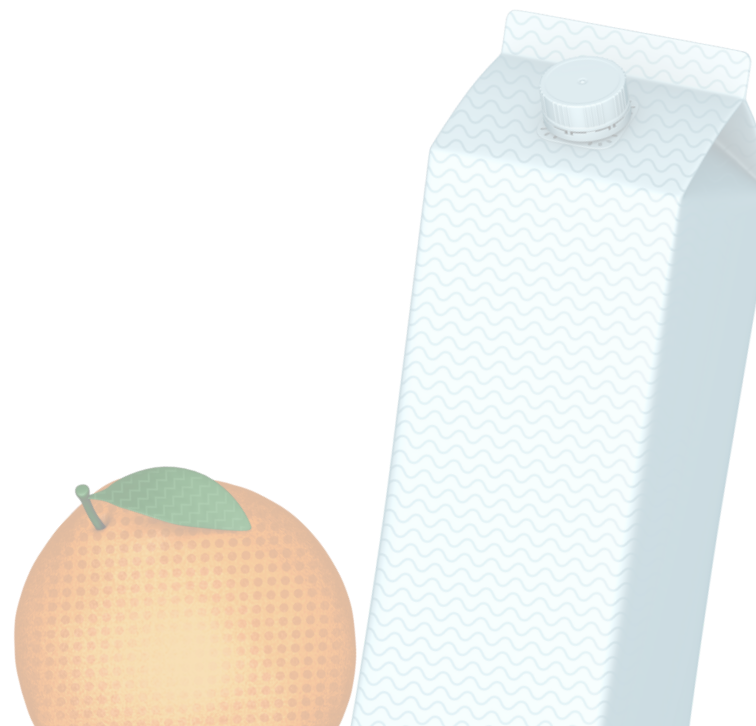
You can consider reaching out to the school community and local businesses for support. Many businesses will often donate funds or equipment to support breakfast clubs in their area. Check out our School Breakfast Clubs 'Starting the Program' resources, for letter templates to ask for additional support.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

DOES IT NEED TO BE A FORMAL SIT-DOWN BREAKFAST?

The program is flexible and can be delivered in a format that suits the needs of your students and school. You can run it as a sit-down breakfast if this works for your school, or you can consider a 'grab and go' offering, where items are available in the morning or throughout the day for students to take.

Some schools combine the two models, offering a sit-down breakfast for students who would like to stay, and items for other students to take with them.



DOES THE BREAKFAST CLUB NEED TO RUN EVERY DAY?

No, you don't need to run a breakfast club every day. While it would be wonderful for all students to access breakfast club every morning, it can be a great idea to start small and slowly build the program up over time.

You might like to start by having breakfast club available one morning per week, and offering simple items like fresh fruit, and a toast station. Once you are familiar with the products, how many students are attending breakfast club, and you have established a network of staff/students/volunteers to help run the program, you can start to increase the days the program runs.

WHAT WILL THIS MEAN FOR OUR SCHOOL CANTEEN?

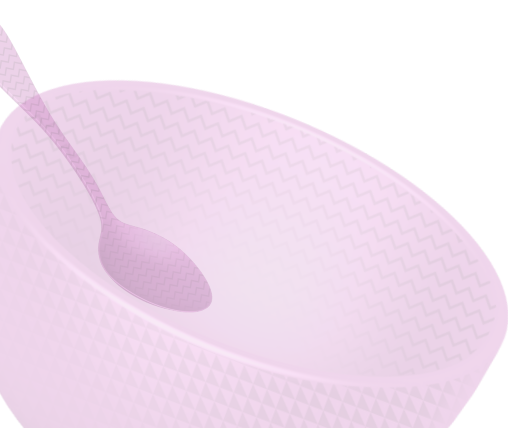
Let your canteen operator know about the program, discuss the importance of the program, and the types of food that will be available. If you plan to run your breakfast club out of canteen facilities, you will need to ensure usage does not compromise legal requirements regarding food safety for school canteen operations.

DOES THE BREAKFAST CLUB NEED TO RUN BEFORE CLASSES COMMENCE?

This is entirely up to your school. Some schools run it prior to school commencing and others run it in the classrooms as part of the first-class period. Your school can identify the timeslot that is most suitable for your student cohort.

HOW LONG DOES BREAKFAST CLUB NEED TO BE OPEN?

It's up to your school how long you have it open for. Some schools will open their breakfast club at 8am and have breakfast and snacks available until the bell, and others will only open for a 10-15 minute window. Many schools will have fresh fruit and snacks available for students who arrive late/after breakfast club has closed.



CONTACT US

**Do you have more questions about setting up a breakfast club at your school?
We're here to help!**

Email schoolbreakfastclub@foodbankvictoria.org.au and a member of our team will be in touch.



Department
of Education