

# Nashua Meals for Kids



## Board of Education Proposal

September 2022

# Nashua Meals for Kids Program



Nashua Meals for Kids is a Public/Private partnership to eliminate childhood hunger in our community



# Nashua Elementary School Statistics

	School	Free/Reduced	2021-2022
	Student	Eligible	% eligible
School	Enrollment	Students	Students
Dr. Norman W. Crisp	371	264	71.16%
Ledge Street	441	297	67.35%
Amherst Street	267	176	65.92%
Mount Pleasant	359	215	59.89%
Fairgrounds	504	290	57.54%
Sunset Heights	341	126	36.95%
Birch Hill	332	97	29.22%
Broad Street	234	55	23.50%
New Searles	312	55	17.63%
Charlotte Avenue	341	56	16.42%
Main Dunstable	418	56	13.40%
Bicentennial	520	58	11.15%
<b>Total Elementary Schools</b>	<b>4440</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>39.30%</b>



# Nashua Middle & High School Statistics

	School	Free/Reduced	2021-2022
	Student	Eligible	% eligible
School	Enrollment	Students	Students
Elm Street Middle	952	356	37.39%
Fairgrounds Middle	621	209	33.66%
Pennichuck Middle	584	216	36.99%
Total Middle Schools	2157	781	36.21%
HS North	1642	555	33.80%
HS South	1807	511	28.28%
Total High Schools	3449	1066	30.91%
<b>Grand Total All Nashua Schools</b>	<b>10048</b>	<b>3592</b>	<b>35.76%</b>



# Lack of food directly impacts child development

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

## Promoting Food Security for All Children

Sixteen million US children (21%) live in households without consistent access to adequate food. After multiple risk factors are considered, children who live in households that are food insecure, even at the lowest levels, are likely to be sick more often, recover from illness more slowly, and be hospitalized more frequently. Lack of adequate healthy food can impair a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in school and is linked to higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems from preschool through adolescence. Food insecurity can affect children

- If families can't pay for food, who will pay for the children's medical costs?
- This makes MFK an economic development program

## Food Insecurity Affects School Children's Academic Performance, Weight Gain, and Social Skills

Diana F. Jyoti, Edward A. Frongillo , Sonya J. Jones

*The Journal of Nutrition*, Volume 135, Issue 12, 1 December 2005, Pages 2831–2839,



# Nashua Meals for Kids Program

- Title I funding provides free/reduced meals to kids while in school during the day
- Title I does not provide food for dinner on school nights or meals over the weekends
- Over 500 Nashua kids go to bed hungry on any night
- Nashua Meals for Kids (NMFK) is a Public/Private Partnership to ensure school children have access to food when not in school
- NMFK has served over 65,000 meals to children in four Nashua Title I schools over the past several years



# Nashua Meals for Kids Operations

- Meals are prepared and delivered frozen to schools by the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter.
- Fresh fruit and vegetables are distributed at the same time as meals.
- Meals are distributed through the Home/School Liaison or Guidance Counselor at each school.
- Meals are provided in special biodegradable trays that allow meals to be heated in an oven or microwave.
- A freezer is placed in each school if needed to keep meals fresh prior to distribution.
  - Freezers to date have been donated by Lowe's and Home Depot.
- The food for this program is purchased fresh by NSKS, specifically for these students' meals. It is not donated.
- These are nutritious balanced meals that kids like to eat!



# Endorsed by Mayor of Nashua Jim Donchess

Jim Donchess

MAYOR • CITY OF NASHUA

Dear Nashua Community Members,

Many people will be surprised to learn that there are underprivileged children in our very own city who are food insecure and go to bed hungry at night. The impact of insufficient food directly impacts a child's ability to fully function in school, their development into adolescence and is also a root cause of numerous serious medical conditions.

The Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter along with a coalition of other non-profits is leading a Meals for Kids program directly focused on solving this critical problem in our city and has a goal to make Nashua the first city in the country to actually put an end to childhood hunger.

It is rare that we get an opportunity to directly help others, in a way that helps us all. I would ask every business, institution and citizen in Nashua to support this wonderful and important effort. 100% of all donations to this program go directly to feeding children in need in Nashua and are also tax deductible.

This is our city and these are our neighbors. Let's work together with the Nashua Meals for Kids Program to ensure no child goes hungry in Nashua.

Thank you for your support,



Jim Donchess  
Mayor

229 Main Street • PO Box 2819 • Nashua, New Hampshire 03061-2819  
803.589.3280 • fax 603.596.3433 • [NashuaMayor@NashuaNH.gov](mailto:NashuaMayor@NashuaNH.gov)  
[www.NashuaNH.gov](http://www.NashuaNH.gov)





# Nashua Meals for Kids Core Program

## The Telegraph



# Nashua Meals for Kids Program Partner





“

With the Meals for Kids Program we have the real opportunity for Nashua to be the first city in the country to eliminate childhood hunger

”

# Nashua School Rollout Proposal

- NMFK Current school coverage
  - Dr Crisp Elementary - 71% (percentage of Title I kids)
  - Ledge Street Elementary - 67%
  - Sunset Heights Elementary - 37%
  - Elm Street Middle - 37%
- We are proposing a rollout across all schools in Nashua
  - Prioritize schools based on most kids in need
  - Highest Title I percentage as the priority
- Next NMFK school coverage priorities
  - Amherst St Elementary - 66%
  - Mount Pleasant Elementary - 60%
  - Fairgrounds Elementary - 58%
  - Pennichuck Middle - 37%
  - Nashua High School North - 33%



# Rollout Logistics

- School program needs
  - Connection to Shane @NSKS
    - Named point of contact for day-to-day operational logistics, planning and status
    - Principal designates?
  - Freezer optional but recommended
    - Freezer needs space @school with an electric outlet
    - To date, freezers have been donated by local companies
    - NSKS would reach out again for freezer donations
- Communication - how to best communicate
  - To the staff at each school?
  - To parents of kids?
    - One idea is to create a YouTube or TikTok video for kids/parents
- Vacations, holidays and summer breaks
  - Can we continue to use schools for kid meal distributions?



# Rollout Timeline

- September/October 2022 target for coverage of the next 5 schools
  - Amherst St Elementary
  - Mount Pleasant Elementary
  - Fairgrounds Elementary
  - Pennichuck Middle
  - Nashua HS North
- Joint status review meeting every 3 months
  - Adjust as necessary
- Commence distributions at remaining schools in rollout  
December/January



# Thank You

PROUDLY  
WORKING TO END  
**CHILDHOOD HUNGER**  
IN NASHUA

WITH THE NASHUA  
SOUP KITCHEN &  
SHELTER



Nashua Soup Kitchen  
& Shelter, Inc.

MEALS  
FOR  
KIDS

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

