



The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance is lead partner for the No Kid Hungry campaign in Arkansas.

MEDIA RELEASE

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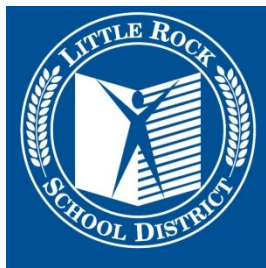
Governor Kicks Off Baptist Health BHealthy Good2Go School Breakfast Program

LITTLE ROCK, AR (March 8, 2018) —The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Baptist Health and the Little Rock School District hosted Governor Asa Hutchinson at the announcement of an exciting new partnership to assure more students at Hall, J.A. Fair and McClellan high schools start their days with a nutritious breakfast. The *Good2Go* breakfast program, funded by Baptist Health, is an effort to provide students with a tasty, nutritious, and portable means of getting the nutrition they need to get their days off to a good start.

As supporters of Governor Hutchinson's Healthy Active Arkansas Plan, the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign and Baptist Health assisted the Little Rock School District in adapting the grab-and-go breakfast model to help high need schools increase participation in the federally funded school breakfast program. Although many elementary and middle schools in the district already have successful Breakfast After the Bell programs, the three highest need high schools—all with free/reduced rates of 78 percent or higher—the district had struggled in attracting older students to eat breakfast at school. Older students are known for not eating early in the morning before class, often leaving them tired and unfocused until lunchtime. Thanks to the Baptist BHealthy Good2Go program, students will now be able to stop by a central location and grab a nutritious smoothie to have on their way to class.

Baptist Health BHealthy provided funding to purchase industrial blenders, cups and other equipment necessary to introduce smoothies as a regular item in the district's breakfast menu at Hall, J.A. Fair and McClellan high schools. The smoothies that students enjoy are nutritionally complete and fully reimbursable by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the federal agency that administers the National School Breakfast Program.

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Little Rock School District was cited in the Food Research and Action Center’s *School Breakfast: Making it Work in Large School Districts* report as a high performing district with a 77.5 percent participation rate in school breakfast relative to school lunch for students from low income families; that is well above the national benchmark of 70 percent.

As we look for effective ways to improve student academic achievement, encouraging school districts to adopt new and innovative Breakfast After the Bell programs is a strategy whose time has come.

School Breakfast in Arkansas | Quick Facts

- **One in four** Arkansas children don’t always know where they will get their next meal.
- Hunger causes headaches, stomach aches, inability to concentrate, irritability and acting out behaviors. None of which are conducive to learning.
- Schools, through the US Department of Agriculture’s National School Lunch and National School Breakfast programs, are working to make sure our children—especially those from low-income families— have the nutrition they need to succeed at school.
- In the 2016/17 school year, there were **287,142** students in Arkansas schools who were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- Two strategies have proven to be the most effective means of insuring that students get a nutritious breakfast Monday through Friday:
 - **Breakfast After the Bell** programs (Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab & Go and Second Chance Breakfast) make breakfast part of the school day, eliminating many of the barriers to school breakfast participation like transportation issues and stigma.
 - **Community Eligibility Provision**, a USDA option which allows schools in high poverty areas to feed all of their students (regardless of ability to pay) at no cost to families.
- The Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign works with schools across the state to start Breakfast After the Bell programs by offering technical assistance and grant dollars.

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With the new Warrior Smoothie Shack in the background, Hall High students told us they love the new fruit smoothies.



From left: Little Rock School District Superintendent Michael Poore; Troy Wells, CEO Baptist Health; Governor Asa Hutchinson; Little rock Mayor Mark Stodola



From left: City Directors Lance Hines -Ward 5; BJ Wyrick-Ward 7; Capi Peck-Ward 4 and Kathy Webb-Ward 3 celebrate that Hall, McClellan and JA Fair high schools will be participating in the Baptist Health Good2Go breakfast program.

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About Baptist Health

Baptist Health is an Arkansas-based, locally owned and managed, not-for-profit, and faith-based health-care organization. Baptist Health is also Arkansas’ most comprehensive health-care organization with more than 9,100 employees operating nine hospitals. For more information about Baptist Health, call Baptist Health HealthLine at 1-888-BAPTIST or visit the website at baptist-health.com. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

About the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, lead partner in Arkansas for the No Kid Hungry campaign, is a non-profit collaborative network of more than 400 hunger relief organizations across Arkansas. Our founding members include the Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfolk, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. The Alliance mission is to reduce hunger and improve access to nutritious food by providing tools and resources, empowerment, advocacy, education and research. We invite you to visit www.ARhungeralliance.org for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.

About Little Rock School District

The Little Rock School District is the largest district in the state with more than 24,000 Pre-K – 12th grade students. LRSD has the distinction of being home to two national Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence; more than 181 teachers with National Board Certification; Arkansas’s only K-8 STEM Academy; and historically, the most National Merit Semifinalists in the state.

About the No Kid Hungry campaign

The No Kid Hungry campaign connects kids in need with effective nutrition programs like school breakfast, summer and afterschool meals and teaches their families how to cook healthy, affordable meals on a budget. The campaign works across the nation and in Arkansas to surround children with healthy food where they live, learn and play. The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance is the lead partner for the No Kid Hungry campaign in Arkansas. Visit <http://www.arhungeralliance.org/programs/no-kid-hungry/> for more information.

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