

Alachua County Public Schools

Schools in Alachua County provide thousands of students with breakfast and lunch during the school year through the Free/Reduced School Meal Program. Unfortunately, many families are dependent on this program to feed their kids every day. Many families have a hard time feeding their children over school holidays and breaks as it is not a part of their regular budget. The Winter Break then becomes a time of added financial stress because of the holidays. In order to make this time a little less stressful, we are working with the schools to provide food for some of their neediest families. Last year, more than 900 families were helped through this effort. The deadline is December 12 for food items and Dec. 14 for monetary contributions. Please contact us if you have items beyond the deadline as we may be able to include them.

The food items listed below will help families in our area make it through Winter Break and provide them with some food for a holiday meal. If you would like to help a family, please purchase the items listed below. We are also happy to shop and do receive some discounts for multiple item purchases. Instructions for monetary donations below.

Holiday Food Drive

If you would like to include additional items, some suggested items are: another breakfast item, snack pack pudding, additional canned meals (ravioli, etc), individual fruit cups, raisins, fruit snacks. These items are not required, but are appreciated.

We would like all food boxes to offer the same minimum food selection so that all families can have a WONDERFUL break.

2 large cans of sweet potatoes	Bag of rice
Black beans	3 boxes of Mac & Cheese
Stuffing mix	Chicken/Tuna Helper and canned meat
Instant potatoes	3 cans of soup
5 cans fruit	Spaghetti Noodles and a jar of sauce
4 cans vegetables	Peanut Butter and Jelly
Dessert – brownie/cake w/ frosting	\$10 Gift Card (toward meat or fresh fruit/milk purchase)
Breakfast – cereal, oatmeal, grits	
2 large cans of Chef Boyardee-like items	
Instant milk or boxed milk	

Please check the dates on your donations as our program rules prevent us from giving away expired items. We also accept other non-perishable food items in order to fill the boxes.

Donation Drop Offs:

Items can be dropped off at Terwilliger Elementary, Chiles Elementary (9 AM to 1 PM M-F) or Lincoln Middle School (10 AM-2PM M-F). Drop offs can be scheduled by appt. Contact info below.

Monetary Donations:

Donations of any amount are welcome. A complete basket of food costs approximately \$60.

Checks can be made out and mailed to the Education Foundation of Alachua County

2802 NE 8th AVE • Gainesville, FL 32641

To donate online: <http://bit.ly/ACPSfoodbox>

Questions? Please contact Kelley Kostamo – Partners in Education – Alachua County Public Schools
kostamkb@gm.sbac.edu – 352-955-7250 x235 • 2802 NE 8th AVE • Gainesville, FL 32641

This project is done in partnership with the Food4Kids Backpack Program of North Florida.

Thank you for making a brighter holiday for our students and families!