



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

600 Southeast Third Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • Office: 754-321-2600 • Fax: 754-321-2701

**ROBERT W. RUNCIE**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

The School Board of  
Broward County, Florida

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May 19, 2020

Potential Donor  
600 South East Third Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

RE: Request for Support - Families First Food and Nutrition Fund

***“Schools are making heroic efforts to get children food, but they’re not able to do it alone,” said Joel Berg, the chief executive officer of the New York City-based nonprofit. “How long can families survive with this level of hunger? They’re hanging on now, but every week it’s going to get worse.”***

Dear Potential Donor:

In response to the unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 threat, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Board and staff have taken many proactive steps to mitigate the many anticipated difficulties that students and families will experience. BCPS has faced the monumental challenge of transitioning to distance learning, while maintaining high-quality instruction, along with the unexpected costs of providing expanded meal services to students and families in the wake of school closures. Holding firm to the commitment that ***Schools may not be open, but Learning Never Closes in BCPS***, the District has mobilized quickly to:

- ✓ Distributed more than **90,000** electronic devices to students to facilitate online learning
- ✓ Distributing **48,000** book packs, from Scholastic, to create home libraries for Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students
- ✓ Negotiated with AT&T and Comcast to offer **discounted and free internet service** and mobile hot spots for low income families and those with housing instability and financial hardship
- ✓ Served more than **One Million** meals (as of May 6, 2020) to students and their families since mid-March 2020

BCPS serves more than **268,000** students, with **63.3%** of our children eligible for free or reduced lunch meals. According to a nationally representative survey of 1,025 families from Hunger Free America, in the last month, more than a third of parents reported skipping entire meals for their children or cutting the size of servings because they did not have enough money for food (*Education Week, April 2020*). In

accordance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, the Federal government has granted a nationwide waiver allowing parents and/or guardians to pick up meals for their children, without the student needing to be present – and often times, the parents are asking for meals as well.

The Food and Nutrition Services team at Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) has been working diligently to help students and their families by serving grab and go meals at fifty-one (51) school sites. The Federal government reimburses the District for student meals, however adult meals are ***not reimbursed*** in any amount with an approximate added cost to the District of more than ***\$30,000 per week***, while we anticipate a catastrophic budget shortfall in the \$120-\$200 million unless federal stimulus dollars are provided. Consequently, like many other districts we are turning to food banks and nonprofits for help, reconfiguring meal distribution plans – and ***seeking support from the philanthropic community***.

**Our call to action:** We invite you to ***join the United Way of Broward County, Miami Dolphins, Feeding South Florida***, and other community partners who have generously supported our efforts and ***become one of our growing list of valued corporate or foundation supporters***. Your generous donation will ensure that in this crisis we help those with the greatest need.

Please consider making a donation to:

Families First Food and Nutrition Fund  
The School Board of Broward County, FL  
600 SE Third Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Attention: Aston Rowe, Grants Administrator, Accountability and Reporting.  
For wire transfers, contact Ivan Perrone, BCPS treasurer, at [ivan.perrone@browardschools.com](mailto:ivan.perrone@browardschools.com).

Our need is to raise ***\$800,000*** by **June 30, 2020**.

If you have additional questions regarding the Families First Food and Nutrition Fund, please contact Stephanie Williams-Louis, director of Grants Administration, at [stephanie.williamsloouis@browardschools.com](mailto:stephanie.williamsloouis@browardschools.com) or 561-577-3606; for Food and Nutrition program information, please contact Mary Mulder, director of Food and Nutrition Services, at [mary.mulder@browardschools.com](mailto:mary.mulder@browardschools.com).

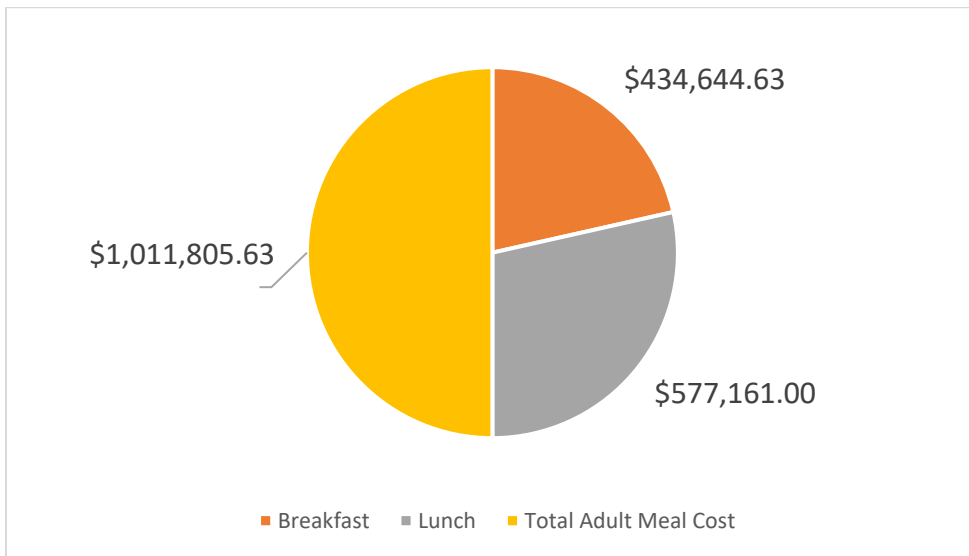
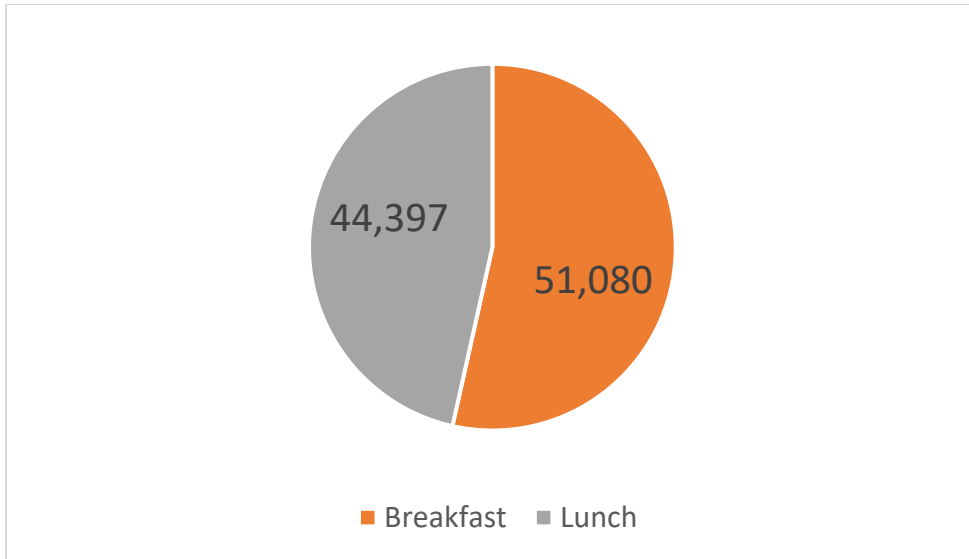
We know that the generosity of our community is great, and now more than ever, there is significant need for additional financial support due to the looming financial impact the worldwide pandemic will have on the nation's public schools. We appreciate partnerships with organizations like yours that are willing to support our mission to ***feed as many of our students and their families as possible who are in need during this COVID-19 crisis***.

Sincerely,

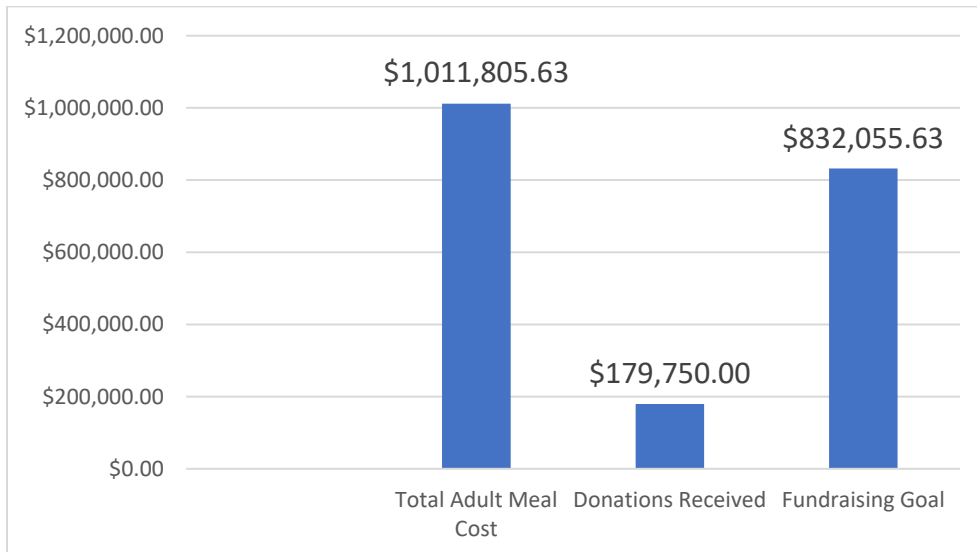


Robert W. Runcie

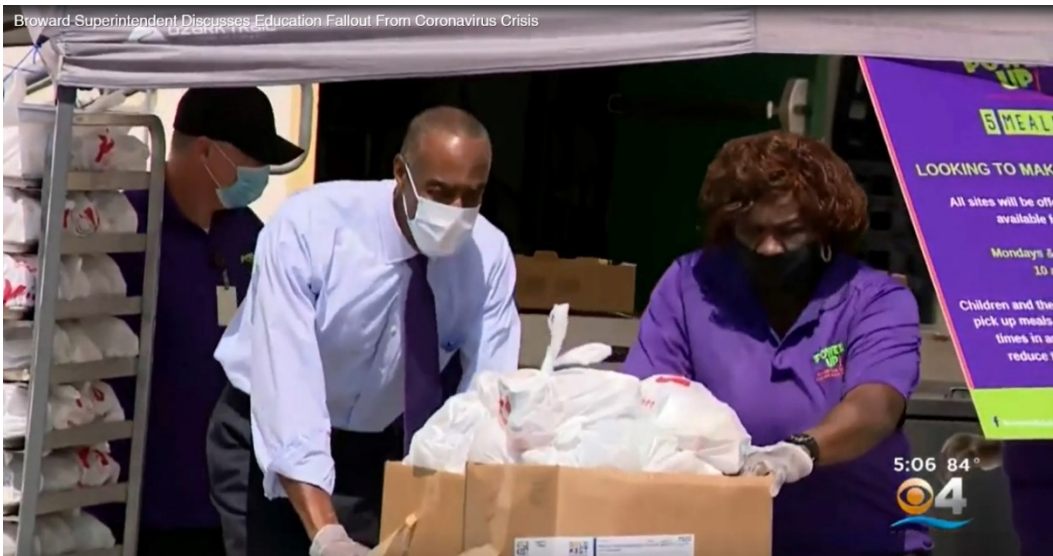
**ADULT MEALS SERVED MARCH 16 TO JUNE 2, 2020**



**FAMILIES FIRST FOOD AND NUTRITION FUND GOAL: JUNE 30, 2020**



# FAMILIES FIRST FOOD AND NUTRITION FUND





**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

7720 W. Oakland Park Blvd. • Sunrise, Florida 33351 • Office: 754-321-0215 • Fax: 754-321-0235

Food and Nutrition Services Department  
Mary Mulder, Director  
754-321-0215  
mary.mulder@browardschools.com  
www.browardschools.com

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**FAMILIES FIRST FOOD AND NUTRITION FUND  
DONATION FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

**ACH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** **Check (Number):** \_\_\_\_\_

