

Breakfast Carts

Breakfast Cart Basics

Breakfast carts are mobile serving areas that allow students to conveniently pick up packaged breakfasts from high traffic areas, such as hallways, entryways, classrooms, or cafeterias. Students can eat in the cafeteria, the classroom or in a common area before and/or after the bell has rung.

This is a popular service model for middle and high schools because it is flexible and can accommodate varying schedules and students who are on the move. Students are responsible for their trash and following school rules as to where and when they can eat their breakfast.



Menu Planning

Breakfast carts must follow all [meal pattern requirements](#) and offer all the required components daily.



Breakfast carts usually feature prepackaged grab n' go options, however, some schools offer a selection of both homemade (e.g., breakfast sandwich, burrito etc) and packaged items to choose from. Food items that are portable and easy to grab are best suited for this service model.

Placement

Breakfast carts perform best in high traffic areas such as hallways, entryways, classrooms or near the gymnasium. It's best to pay attention to students' behavior to get a clue for the best place and time to set up the cart.

Point of Service

All schools must have a process for accurately counting and claiming meals served from a breakfast cart. Schools may choose to use count sheets or an electronic system.

Is a breakfast cart right for my school?

Breakfast carts are likely to be successful in the following scenarios:

- The cafeteria or gym is crowded or not available for breakfast.
- A large number of students have to eat in a short amount of time.
- Buses arrive just before the start of classes.
- Teachers and custodial staff are supportive of breakfast and realize its importance to learning.
- Students rely on ala carte and convenience foods from outside the school for breakfast.
- The cafeteria isn't located where students enter the building or congregate.
- The breakfast menu can easily offer Grab & Go options.

