

ALTERNATIVE BREAKFAST EQUIPMENT GUIDE

If we took a tour through five school districts that have implemented breakfast expansion to the classroom, we'd most likely see five different solutions with a variety of equipment choices. For delivery to the classroom there's everything from the red Radio Flyer wagon to soft pack coolers on wheels to conventional food service carts or dollie "trucks" that can handle anything that stacks.

We see a lot breakfast advocates recommending or donating soft insulated bags as the primary carrier for products to the classroom. These are often used for programs where the students pick up the breakfast. In this case, the breakfast may be sitting longer prior to distribution than if the cafeteria staff is delivering the product. Timing of delivery is a key point when planning what to buy.

Before you invest, it is important to consider cleaning and storage. Soft bags are difficult to clean and do not stack well. The concept of requiring insulation sounds practical for classroom delivery, however we see a lot of improper practices with soft bags because they are not compact. For example, because the bags are bulky, it is impossible for kitchen staff to pre-chill the bags in the freezer before they are filled with cold foods. Cold milk packed into warm room temperature bags does little to keep the milk cold.

As an alternative, the use of freezer packs and rigid tub containers provides enough chill to last a delivery. Rigid containers can be run through dish machines or sink-washed easily, are typically less expensive, and outlast soft bags. Freezer packs are inexpensive, easy to clean, and require little freezer space. If your program is serving hot entrees, rigid coolers are also an option since they are easier to keep clean than soft coolers and usually outlive them. Food service insulated transport boxes are also a good option.

When planning your pack-and-transport equipment, you'll also need to consider where it will be stored when not in use, whether your set up fits through doorways, where you will stage the delivery overnight (for shelf-stable items), and how much refrigeration space is available for pre-packed cold items for the next day.

Refrigeration is typically the number one need for schools that are expanding to classroom delivery because it has the highest participation rate of any of the breakfast models. Grab 'n Go and other hallway or mixed distribution models have much lower participation rates so they require less storage of food.

The list on the following page has many common smallwares and equipment options for planning your breakfast expansion.

Common Smallwares and Equipment Options

Accountability	Comments
Point of sale; laptops, hand-helds, cash boxes	
Transportation	
Utility carts with shelves	
Platform "trucks" (a flat bed with 4 wheels and an upright handle, aka dollie)	
Rolling shelving	
Rolling coolers (soft or rigid)	
Kids' wagons	Red Radio Flyer wagon
Packing	
Bus tubs and lids	
Food boxes with lids	Usually clear
Shipping totes	
Soft insulated zip bags	
Plastic bags for Grab 'n Go set ups	
Sanitation	
Trash bins with wheeled bases	
Deli paper for desk top "place mats"	
Spray bottles for cleaning	
Green buckets for cleaning solution	
Paper towels	
Bags for classroom garbage	
Grab 'n Go	
Food service kiosks	
Food bars	
Tables	The old fashioned way
Point of sale kiosk	
Utensil holders or bins	
Portable rolling milk cooler	Cylindrical usually holds 2 crates
Refrigeration	
Milk cooler	Based on delivery and expected meals
Walk in cooler	Prepack set up—is there enough space?
Walk in freezer	Ice packs and pre-freeze insulated containers
One, two or three door refrigeration	
One, two or three door freezer	



Grab 'n Go



Inter-building classroom delivery



Set up for student delivery to classroom



Set up for classroom delivery (various equipment)



Set up for classroom delivery (various equipment)



Use of food box with cold packs



Recessed Equipment Store



Carts and dollies



Containers for packing



Insulated containers



Kiosks for remote point-of-sale or Grab 'n Go