



November 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The **Auburn Enlarged City School District**, in partnership with the **Booker T. Washington Community Center** is currently preparing for the upcoming holiday season and extended school breaks during the 2021/2022 school year. For the twelfth year, we will offer the Fill-A-Belly Program to students and their families. Our program will provide the opportunity, for families in need, to receive both perishable and non-perishable food items. **The program is designed to assist families in providing their children with healthy nourishment over the extended school breaks.**

Over the past years, through the generous donations of private donors, local community businesses and organizations, the Fill-A-Belly Program was able to offer families with perishable items including bread, meat, cheese, milk and eggs, to supplement non-perishable items. **This year, due to increased food insecurity, our program is reaching out to the community to request assistance in our effort to provide nourishing meals to those in need throughout our district.** Our program solely exists through the generous donations of private individuals, community businesses and organizations.

This year, we are preparing for an increased volume of requests, by families, for our meal boxes. During the last five years, we have experienced an increase in reported hunger, homelessness, and those living well below the poverty level, due to many extenuating variables which have been magnified with the Covid-19 pandemic. **Our hope is to be able to meet the ever-growing needs of our students and to ensure that no child ever goes to bed hungry.**

Please consider donating funds to allow us to purchase food items for our students and their families. We also welcome volunteers for the event. **Please send donated funds to the attention of AECSD- Food Bank/FAB @ Auburn Enlarged City School District at 78 Thornton Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021.** We will be partnering with the Food Bank of CNY and other local vendors to dispense the food boxes on December 21st, prior to the 10-day school break. We will accept donations all year long in an effort to support our families throughout the additional extended breaks away from school.

Thank you for your consideration to support our Fill-A-Belly Program. Any amount of donation will be greatly appreciated and will help so many families throughout the holiday season and extended breaks.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Poole

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AECSD School Social Worker

