



USDA Grants Needed to Help Georgia Serve Healthy School Meals

71 schools in the state received grants to enhance their kitchens

This fact sheet is one in a 10-part series highlighting the need for more school kitchen equipment grants to help ensure that children receive healthy school meals.

Overview

The nutritional quality of school meals has a significant impact on the health of the children who eat them. Each day, the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs serve more than 30 million and 14 million children, respectively, providing healthy food for kids.¹ However, this frequently requires schools to work around equipment and infrastructure challenges in ways that are expensive, inefficient, and unsustainable.

Georgia at a Glance

- 92 percent of school districts needed at least one piece of equipment to better serve nutritious foods as of the 2012-13 school year.*
- The median cost of equipment needs per school was \$40,000 in the 2012-13 school year, compared with approximately \$37,000 nationally.†
- The state received \$1,558,986 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for school kitchen equipment upgrades in fiscal year 2014.‡

* The Pew Charitable Trusts, "States Need Updated School Kitchen Equipment," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2014/03/26/states-need-updated-school-kitchen-equipment-b>.

† Ibid.

‡ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "Fiscal Year 2014 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities" (memorandum, April 18, 2014).

Although 78 percent of school districts in Georgia have at least some budget for kitchen equipment upgrades,² U.S. Department of Agriculture grants are critical to helping schools with greater needs. Seventy-one schools in the state received funding in fiscal 2014 to purchase kitchen equipment.³ (See Table 1.)

Policymakers have a chance to make a big difference in many school systems by helping them purchase the new and better tools they need to serve healthier foods more efficiently. Congress has provided such support since 2009 in the form of grant funding through annual appropriations, including \$30 million in fiscal 2016, which is distributed to school districts via state agencies.⁴ For fiscal 2017, the president's budget includes \$35 million for the grants.⁵ Now Congress has the opportunity to match that request and make certain that more schools have access to these much-needed resources.

Additionally, the bipartisan School Food Modernization Act (S. 540/H.R. 3316) would maintain schools' access to modern kitchen equipment and infrastructure, and strengthen workforce training through the child nutrition reauthorization legislation.⁶ By co-sponsoring the act, members of Congress can help make upgrading school kitchens and ensuring that students receive the healthy meals they need a national priority.

Table 1

Congress Should Appropriate Funding to Help More Schools

USDA grants by Georgia congressional district, school food authority, amount, and items purchased, FY 2014

Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
GA-1	Wayne County	Martha Rawls Smith Elementary School	\$23,000.00	Combi oven
GA-1	Ware County	Wacona Elementary School	\$25,000.00	Combi oven
GA-1	Long County	Long County Middle School	\$35,000.00	Stacked combi oven
GA-1	Liberty County	Midway Middle School	\$42,900.00	Dishwasher
GA-1	Chatham County	East Broad Street School	\$32,625.00	Combi oven
GA-2	Muscogee County	Key Elementary School	\$14,000.00	Tilting skillet†
GA-2	Crisp County	Crisp County Middle School	\$18,500.00	Combi oven
GA-2	Early County	Early County High School	\$38,000.00	Gas combi oven
GA-2	Webster County	Webster Elementary/ Middle School	\$38,500.00	Combi steamer/oven

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
GA-2	Baker County	Baker County K12 School	\$15,000.00	Stove
GA-2	Crawford County	Crawford County Elementary School	\$20,000.00	Combi oven
GA-2	Sumter County	Sumter County Middle School	\$19,500.00	Produce washing sink
GA-2	Grady County	Cairo High School	\$33,000.00	Serving lines
GA-2	Randolph County	Randolph Clay High School	\$40,000.00	Dishwasher
GA-2	Miller County	Miller County High School	\$14,000.00	Tilting skillet
GA-2	Stewart County	Stewart County Middle School	\$35,000.00	Combi oven
GA-2	Pataula Charter School	Pataula Charter Academy	\$12,000.00	Walk-in cooler
GA-2	Pelham City	Pelham Elementary School	\$16,123.00	Combi oven
GA-2	Terrell County	Terrell High School	\$25,000.00	Serving line
GA-3	Meriwether County	Manchester High School	\$32,000.00	Walk-in freezer
GA-3	Troup County	Gardner Newman Middle School	\$33,000.00	Serving lines (two)
GA-3	KidsPeace Center	KidsPeace National Center of Georgia	\$3,300.00	Convection oven
GA-3	A Friend's House	A Friend's House	\$3,200.00	Ice machine
GA-3	Carroll County	Temple Middle School	\$48,400.00	Walk-in freezer and cooler
GA-3	Lamar County	Lamar County Elementary School	\$25,000.00	Combi oven

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
GA-3	Heard County	Heard County Middle School	\$18,000.00	Combi oven
GA-3	Thomaston-Upson County	Upson-Lee High School	\$21,848.00	Hydrovection oven [‡]
GA-4	Rockdale County	Pine Street Elementary School	\$33,000.00	Dishwasher
GA-4	Atlanta Area School for the Deaf	Atlanta Area School for the Deaf	\$35,000.00	Serving line
GA-5	Commission Charter Schools- Fulton Leadership Academy	Fulton Leadership Academy	\$2,400.00	Back bar refrigerator
GA-5	Youth Adult Center	The Young Adult Guidance Center Inc.	\$22,544.00	Walk in cooler/freezer
GA-6	Marietta City	Sawyer Road Elementary	\$16,000.00	Combi-oven
GA-6	DeKalb County	Sequoyah Middle School	\$48,400.00	Walk-in cooler/freezer
GA-6	Butts County	Henderson Middle School	\$22,000.00	Hydrovection oven [‡]
GA-7	Gwinnett County	Meadowcreek High School	\$33,000.00	Serving line
GA-8	Tift County	Len Lastinger Primary School	\$15,000.00	Steamer
GA-8	Colquitt County	Stringfellow Elementary School	\$21,000.00	Combi oven
GA-8	Houston County	Northside Elementary School	\$33,000.00	Two serving lines
GA-8	Lanier County	Lanier County High School	\$27,500.00	Walk-in freezer
GA-8	Thomasville City	MacIntyre Park Middle School	\$4,500.00	Pass-through refrigerator
GA-8	Worth County	Worth County Middle School	\$48,500.00	Walk-in cooler/freezer

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
GA-9	Hart County	Hartwell Elementary School	\$48,400.00	Walk-in cooler/freezer
GA-9	Gilmer County	Gilmer High School	\$16,000.00	Combi steamer/oven
GA-9	Fannin County	East Fannin Elementary School	\$24,000.00	Serving line
GA-9	Jackson County	Maysville Elementary School	\$13,708.00	Combi oven
GA-9	Creative Learning Center	Creative Learning Center	\$2,712.00	Cooler/refrigerator
GA-9	Madison County	Colbert Elementary School	\$35,000.00	Walk-in cooler/freezer
GA-9	Rabun County	Rabun County Middle School	\$33,000.00	Serving lines
GA-10	Jefferson County	Jefferson County High School	\$14,000.00	Convection ovens
GA-10	Wilkes County	Washington-Wilkes High School	\$6,800.00	Double stacked convection oven
GA-10	Washington County	Ridge Road Elementary School	\$33,000.00	Serving line
GA-10	Warren County	Warren County High School	\$5,000.00	Milk coolers
GA-10	Columbia County	Greenbrier High School	\$14,000.00	Tilting skillet
GA-10	Jasper County	Jasper County High School	\$38,500.00	Stacked combi oven
GA-11	Devereux Foundation	Devereux Georgia Treatment Network	\$5,000.00	Multishelf serving line
GA-12	Burke County	Blakeney Elementary School	\$40,000.00	Walk-in cooler
GA-12	Evans County	Claxton Elementary School	\$23,000.00	Convection steamer ^s and kettle unit

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Congressional district	School food authority	School	Grant	Item purchased
GA-12	Toombs County	Toombs Central Elementary School	\$45,000.00	Walk-in freezer
GA-12	Richmond County	Sego Middle School	\$48,400.00	Walk-in cooler freezer
GA-12	Dublin City	Dublin Middle School	\$4,000.00	Hot holding cabinets
GA-12	Candler County	Metter High School	\$18,203.00	Combi oven
GA-13	Clayton County	Jonesboro High School	\$33,000.00	Serving line
GA-13	Utopian Academy Charter	Utopian Academy Charter School	\$1,100.00	Ice machine
GA-14	Dalton City	Blue Ridge Elementary School	\$25,000.00	Combi oven
GA-14	Walker County	Gilbert Elementary School	\$42,900.00	Dishwasher
GA-14	Haralson County	Tallapoosa Primary School	\$45,000.00	Walk-in freezer
GA-14	Polk County	Cedartown High School	\$26,500.00	Dishwasher
GA-14	Murray County	Eton Elementary School	\$17,000.00	Combi oven
GA-14	Floyd County	Pepperell Primary	\$4,320.00	Electric slicer
GA-14	Whitfield County	Beaverdale Elementary School	\$6,000.00	Refrigerated pass-through cabinet
GA-14	Murphy Harpst Center	Murphy Harpst Children's Center	\$5,000.00	Combi oven

Notes: Total dollars allocated from the USDA to states and from states to schools may be different because of variation between projected and final equipment costs.

* Combination (combi) ovens bake, roast, grill, steam, braise, blanch, and poach foods in shorter cooking times. This technique preserves vitamins and nutrients at higher levels than traditional cooking methods.

† Tilting skillets are used to grill, fry, simmer, or braise a large quantity of food and tilt forward for easier pouring than stationary skillets.

‡ Hydrovection ovens combine steam and heat to bake, roast, oven fry, poach, and grill foods.

§ Convection steamers use internal fans to circulate steam and air around food to cook it more quickly than a traditional steaming method.

Source: Georgia Department of Education

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Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "National School Lunch Program: Participation and Lunches Served (Data as of April 8, 2016)"; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "School Breakfast Program: Participation and Meals Served (Data as of April 8, 2016)," <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/child-nutrition-tables>.
- 2 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "States Need Updated School Kitchen Equipment," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2014/03/26/states-need-updated-school-kitchen-equipment-b>.
- 3 Georgia Department of Education, pers. comm., April 1, 2016.
- 4 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "2016 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants," last modified Feb. 1, 2016, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/2016-nslp-equipment-assistance-grants>.
- 5 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, "2017 Explanatory Notes," accessed April 14, 2016, <http://www.obpa.usda.gov/32fns2017notes.pdf>.
- 6 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Give Schools the Tools to Prepare Healthy, Delicious Meals" (Feb. 20, 2015), <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2015/02/give-schools-the-tools-to-prepare-healthy-delicious-meals>.

For further information, please visit:

pewtrusts.org/kitchen-equipment

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