

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Gobi Receives Hunger Hero Award

ATHOL – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and Rep. Susannah Whipps (R-Athol) visited Athol-Royalston Middle School on Wednesday morning and passed out breakfast to students. The two legislators joined Project Bread Inc. to celebrate the district’s commitment to child nutrition programs.

Senator Gobi was also awarded the Hunger Hero Award recognizing her support for programs that support child nutrition programs.

“I want to thank the Athol-Royalston school district and Project Bread for bringing the importance of nutritious breakfast to students,” said Senator Gobi. “As a former teacher, I know very well that a good breakfast truly is food for the brain. In addition to giving students a good start to their day, this program teaches students about proper nutrition, which has lasting benefits.”

Prior to this school year, Athol-Royalston Middle School offered breakfast in the cafeteria before school, but reached only 25% of the student population. At the beginning of the current school year, they implemented Grab & Go breakfast, a model that allows students to pick up their school breakfast from kiosks in the hallway before school and enjoy the breakfast on their way to calls or at their seats during the beginning of class. Since implementing this new model, the school has reached 64% participation.

Providing children with a healthy start to the day has benefits that extend far beyond the classroom. Children who eat school breakfast are more likely to arrive on time to school, retain what they learn, behave better, and experience better health outcomes. The National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) is a federally-funded nutrition program that provides nutritious breakfast to eligible students at low or no cost during the school year. In Massachusetts, the NSBP is administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE). Through a legislative appropriation, ESE funds Project Bread to administer the Child Nutrition Outreach Program (CNOP) through an annual grant. CNOP provides technical assistance and

innovative solutions to support schools to implement and expand breakfast programs. For more information about school breakfast, visit www.meals4kids.org,

Project Bread is committed to preventing and ending hunger in Massachusetts. We approach hunger as a complex problem with multiple solutions; we provide immediate access to affordable, healthy food to those who are hungry today, while also eradicating the systemic causes of hunger. Along with other sources, the funds raised through The Walk for Hunger™, celebrating its 50th anniversary in May 2018, enable Project Bread to pioneer innovative initiatives and support effective programs to end hunger in our state.

www.ProjectBread.org.

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