



Presented by

*The Mayor and Members
of the
City Council
of the
City of Alexandria, Virginia*

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program (SBP), permanently established in 1975, provides nutritionally balanced breakfasts to more than 15 million children across 91,000 schools and institutions in the United States each day; and

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program meets the nutritional needs of children, improves food security, and promotes health, learning, and development by providing nutritionally balanced breakfasts to school children each day; and

WHEREAS, 69% of students in Alexandria City Public Schools qualify for free or reduced-price school meals; and

WHEREAS, school-aged children who experience hunger are more likely to be absent from school, visit the school nurse, and experience more challenges than children with a nutritious diet, and skipping breakfast has consistently been linked with worse academic and health outcomes for children; and

WHEREAS, eating breakfast improves children's overall diets, builds healthy, lifelong eating habits and enhances their ability to learn and perform academically; and

WHEREAS, making breakfast a part of the school day, commonly known as Breakfast After the Bell, and offering breakfast at no cost are effective ways to ensure more students realize the benefits of breakfast; and

WHEREAS, the federal Community Eligibility Provision offers eligible schools the ability to serve breakfast to all students at no cost, increasing food security and academic outcomes, while also allowing schools to eliminate the collection of paper applications, reduce administrative costs, streamline meal service operations and increase the reimbursements schools receive from federal child nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, 10 of 17 Alexandria City public schools currently participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision, including Patrick Henry Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, over 4,000 free or reduced-price breakfast meals were served on the average day in Alexandria in school year 2024–2025, reaching 36% of qualifying students; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Henry Elementary School has one of the highest breakfast participation rates in Alexandria City, serving nearly 700 breakfasts on the average day and exceeding No Kid Hungry's breakfast participation goal; and

WHEREAS, parents, caregivers, teachers, and school food personnel all play an essential role to ensure the children of Alexandria have the basic resources needed to grow, learn, discover their own potential, and live happy fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, No Kid Hungry offers information, tools, resources and grants to support schools in implementing and expanding school breakfast programs and the School Nutrition Association offers free materials to help schools commemorate "National School Breakfast Week" including artwork to decorate their meal serving areas, toolkits and handouts, sample menu items, marketing materials, and suggested promotional activities, including games, activities and contests; and

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to helping expand access to and enhance current school breakfast programs to ensure that our children have the means to succeed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2-6, 2026, as:

"SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK"

In the City of Alexandria and encourage all residents to recognize and commemorate school administrators, school nutrition directors, and cafeteria staff who operate school breakfast programs that ensure the health, safety, and success of our children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 4th day of March 2026.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alyia Gaskins', written over a horizontal line.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gloria Sutton', written over a horizontal line.

Gloria A. Sutton, CMC City Clerk