

MEMORANDUM

To: All District and School-Level Administrators and Teachers
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, Director, Grants & Partnerships
Through: Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief DCEIP
Date: December 12, 2025
Subject: Funding Focus Friday: Panera Bread's *Day-End Dough-Nation*® Program

Across DeKalb County, many of our students and families continue to experience the daily strain of food insecurity. At the same time, local businesses are looking for meaningful ways to give back. I am pleased to share an opportunity that links these two realities in a very practical way: Panera Bread's [Day-End Dough-Nation® Program](#).

Through Day-End Dough-Nation, Panera bakery-cafes donate their unsold bread, bagels, and baked goods at the end of each night to community organizations that serve people in need. Public schools are eligible to apply, as are PTAs, foundations, and other 501(c)(3) partners that work alongside our schools. Approved organizations commit to collecting and distributing donated food on a weekly and ongoing basis to individuals who are food insecure, ill, or underserved children and youth.

With thoughtful planning and coordination, this program can help schools and their partners effectively lessen the effects of food insecurity on a regular basis. Examples include:

- Providing weekly take-home bags with bread and baked goods for identified families through your school pantry, social worker, or counseling office.
- Supplementing existing weekend or holiday backpack programs so students have additional, ready-to-eat items at home when school meals are not available.
- Supporting after-school tutoring, clubs, and enrichment programs with simple snacks that keep students focused, present, and ready to learn.

If you are interested, I encourage you to discuss this with your leadership team, school social worker, counselor, or family engagement liaison to determine the best structure for your school. Some schools may wish to apply directly as the public school. Others may find it more effective to work through a PTA, school foundation, or trusted nonprofit partner who can manage logistics and volunteers.

For more information about the Day-End Dough-Nation program, see [HERE](#). To apply, visit [HERE](#).

Remember to follow the [DCSD Grant Guidelines](#) and work with [Grants & Partnerships](#) to coordinate the next steps. We are here to support you in shaping your ideas and strengthening your submissions. To begin your application, have questions answered, or get experienced advice, email us at grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org.

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[Dr. Donald Porter](#), Lead Grant Strategist
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Looking for more grant inspiration and options? The full, searchable December 2025 issue of the Monthly Education Grants Alert (MEGA) is available [HERE](#).

Good luck!