RICHLAND ONE
Nutrition Services Department
1616 Richland Street • Columbia, SC 29201

TO: Principals, Directors/Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, and Cafeteria Crew Leaders

THRU: Todd A. Walker, J.D., Ph.D., Superintendent
Ciera Bing, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Tracy Dixon, Executive Director of Nutrition Services

RE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive and Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards

DATE: October 5, 2026

As the season of giving approaches, we are once again called to uplift our school community by supporting those in need. Many Richland One families continue to face challenges, including food insecurity, but together we can make a difference in a meaningful way.

This year, Richland One is proud to once again partner with the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and Harvest Hope Food Bank to host the 2027 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive.

Food Drive Details

Dates: October 12, 2026 - November 13, 2026

Pick-Up Window for schools: November 16-20, 2026

Collection Bins: Front lobby and cafeteria

Point of Contact: Nutrition Services (803) 231-6953

Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards

Eligible students must be 18 years old or younger, attend a Richland One elementary, middle, or high school, and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. Application deadline: December 4, 2026. Each school is tasked with nominating at least:

- 1 student per elementary school
- 3 students per middle school
- 5 students per high school

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NUTRITION SERVICES

Award levels have increased this year . We encourage all schools to support students in preparing their applications. This valuable opportunity is only available to Richland One students, therefore we ask that every school meets at least the minimum criteria for application submissions. The new award schedule is as follows: High School Awards: 1st $1,500, 2nd $1,000, 3rd $750, Honorable Mention $200. Middle School Awards: 1st $500, 2nd $425, 3rd $350, Honorable Mention $100. Elementary Awards: 1st $250, 2nd $225, 3rd $200, Honorable Mention $100. Additional information may be found in the attachments.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to serving others.

Attachments

201 Park Street, Room 202, Columbia, SC 29201
Office Phone: (803) 231-6953