

"The Oat Bursary was beneficial to our school-wide breakfast program, which we just began this year. We had grand plans, but limited experience and budget. The bursary allowed us to think outside the box and expose our students to foods they hadn't tried before. We served yogurt & fruit parfait cups, topped with homemade granola created with whole oats. The students requested this item again and again and were impressed that granola can be made with simple ingredients that they likely have in their pantry! Thank you AITC!." – Audra Loessin, Maymont Central School



Oats for Breakfast Nutrition Support Bursary 2026 – Report

Project Description

The **Oats for Breakfast Nutrition Support Bursary** provided financial support to schools with a high population of food-insecure students. The bursary helps children have access to a nutritious breakfast or snack, allowing them to focus on their education while also engaging in meaningful agriculture-based learning experiences.

"The oats program was a great addition to our school. Students looked forward to trying new oat-based foods each week, and it provided meaningful opportunities to learn about nutrition, agriculture, and where our food comes from. The program also encouraged positive interactions between students of different ages and helped promote healthy eating habits in a fun and engaging way." – Teacher, Consul School

Project Reach

A total of 8624 students from 34 schools across Saskatchewan benefited from the Oat Nutrition Bursary. The bursary was given to large and small schools, both rural and urban. The breakdown is as follows:

\$300 bursary:

- 14 schools (4 urban and 10 rural)
- 2433 students

\$400 bursary:

- 20 schools (12 urban and 7 rural)
- 6191 students

The bursary was promoted through our Newsletter (distribution 3200+ subscribers) and Social Media (14,000+ followers).



We received 39 applications, most of which met the criteria. To accommodate as many applicants as possible, we distributed the funds across various school divisions, covering both rural and urban areas. To ensure accountability and effective fund utilization, each recipient signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement required that the funds be used within the current school year and to provide feedback and submit photos documenting their activities.

We distributed recipe cards featuring Oatmeal Breakfast Cookies and Oatmeal Energy Bites to promote oats as a healthy food choice for families. These cards were intended for students to take home and prepare these oats-based treats with their families or at school. We also shared an online learning module for teachers to use to supplement their learning and connect what they are eating to agriculture. Educational posters about the nutritional benefits of oats were sent to be hung around the school along with the recipe cards.

Teachers shared the following on how their school used the bursary:

Ecole Palliser Heights School - Grade 8 students worked together to bake over 600 cookies for our whole school. We shared recipes, made connections and got to visit classrooms that we may not often get to. Along with sharing oatmeal cookies with the whole school, extra granola, oatmeal muffins and cookies have been frozen and stored for students who may not have a nutritious snack or lunch!

Chief Whitecap School - We used the bursary to purchase oat-based granola bars and ready-to-go oatmeal packets to reach the greatest number of students. The granola bars are available as grab-and-go snacks for students who need a quick, nutritious option

during the school day. The oatmeal packets are used during life skills programming, where students learn to safely prepare simple, healthy meals while enjoying a warm breakfast or snack. In addition, the bags of oats gifted through the program will allow multiple classrooms to incorporate oats into cooking activities and strengthen our school's breakfast and snack program throughout the year.

Ecole River Heights School – ALL of our students benefitted from the oat bursary. We spent funds on instant oats for our breakfast program as well as granola bars for student snacks. All students are being served a Wow butter/jam oat bite that utilized the generous donation!

Anonymous School – We purchased granola bars for every classroom to have a snack drawer. Many of our students are highly active and require extra snacks besides the food they bring. Our students who are diabetic also rely on the granola bars when their sugars are low. We purchased bags of oats for our students who have alternative lessons. They cook with their EAs every week, learning life skills. We purchased cereal boxes for the younger grades who have a morning and afternoon snack provided.

Recipients

The list of school, city, and number of students is included in the Appendix.

Benefits to Students

Thanks to the generous support from SaskOats and Bob's Red Mill we were able to provide the same number of bursaries as 2025, which was double the amount we distributed in 2024. This bursary creates a lasting impact on schools across the province and did more than just feed students. The bursary also:

- provided opportunities for classrooms and schools to come together as a community and prepare food for each other
- helped students to build life-long skills such as food preparation, nutritional understanding, and grocery shopping
- removed food insecurity as a barrier to learning
- offered an opportunity for students to learn about locally grown oats and explore the wide range of products that incorporate oats
- connected students with the food system and helped them understand the important role agriculture plays in their daily lives
- promoted equity ensuring all students have the opportunity to learn and thrive

Impact on Appreciation of Agriculture

Several teachers emphasized the positive effect of combining oat-based recipes with the educational information provided. This combination effectively enhanced students' learning of the role played by Saskatchewan agriculture. Students were able to understand the significance of local agricultural practices and their connection to the food they consume.

All recipients appreciated the bursary funds to provide healthy meals and snacks. This financial support created the opportunity for students to begin their day with nutritious meals, facilitating their ability to learn effectively. Many students were excited about taking the oat-based recipes home and involving their families in preparing them. Overall, the bursary's contribution not only fulfilled immediate nutritional needs but also fostered knowledge, excitement, and creativity around healthy eating habits and the versatile uses of oats.

A big Thank You to Bob's Red Mill and SaskOats for, once again, supporting the Oat Bursary Program. Thanks to your support, thousands of Saskatchewan students received nutritious food that energized their bodies, allowing them to focus on their education.

"We could provide invaluable help to students in need. We have multiple students who live in very vulnerable situations that have been able to eat multiple times per day thanks to this bursary." – Anonymous

Appendix

Recipients of the Oats Bursary Funding:

School	City	# of Students
Balcarres Community School	Balcarres	275
Bishop James Mahoney High School	Saskatoon	200
Buena Vista School	Saskatoon	450
Chief Whitecap School	Saskatoon	500
Consul School	Consul	55
Delisle Elementary School	Delisle	215
Dr. Isman Elementary School	Wolseley	100
École Palliser Heights School	Moose Jaw	500
École River Heights School	Saskatoon	352
École Dundonald School	Saskatoon	50
Elrose Composite School	Elrose	150

Elsie Mironuck School	Regina	469
Esterhazy High School	Esterhazy	360
Fort Qu'Appelle Elementary	Fort Qu'Appelle	300
Grenfell Elementary Community School	Grenfell	125
Herbert School	Herbert	200
Imperial School	Imperial	101
King George Public School	Prince Albert	225
Lake Vista Public School	Martensville	400
Langenburg Central School	Langenburg	350
Lashburn High School	Lashburn	150
Leroy School	Leroy	132
Maymont Central School	Maymont	120
Midale Central School	Midale	175
Naicam School	Naicam	215
North Park Wilson School	Saskatoon	250
Pike Lake School	Saskatoon	35
Punnichy Elementary Community School	Punnichy	90
St. Augustine Community School	Regina	500
St. Francis School	Prince Albert	400
St. John's Community School	Saskatoon	190
St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre	Saskatoon	480
St. Michael Community School	Saskatoon	300
W.J. Berezowsky Public School	Prince Albert	210
		8624

Testimonials:

This bursary is so very much appreciated by the students and staff at our school as it allows us to provide healthy and nutritious breakfasts and snacks for so many more students than we would otherwise be able to. It allows us to work with students, teaching them life skills, while they create something delicious to share with their classmates. We can't say thank you enough! – Teacher, Lashburn High School

"The Oat Bursary has had a meaningful impact on our school community. It allowed us to provide healthy, accessible food to students while creating valuable learning opportunities through hands-on food preparation. The flexibility of the funding meant we could support both immediate student needs with grab-and-go snacks and longer-term learning through life skills programming. We are incredibly grateful for this support and the positive difference it has made for our students." – Kessa Fillo, Chief Whitecap Elementary School

"This was a fantastic opportunity. I feel as though it adds to the safety of the classroom climate when students know they have access to food when they are hungry. Students are more engaged when they are healthy and happy." – Anonymous

Multiple teachers expressed their appreciation of the ability to provide resources to students who may be experiencing food insecurity:

"For some of our students, opening up their lunchbox to find something fresh and homemade just doesn't happen very often. Being able to hand them a warm cookie or muffin made them feel extra special—and honestly, the smiles on their faces were worth every bit of flour on our aprons. Excess baked goods will be stored in the freezer and distributed to those in need for the coming months.

It also sparked some really cool conversations. While the kids were munching away, we talked about where their food actually comes from. It was awesome to connect the dots for them and point out that the oats they were eating were grown right here in our backyard by hardworking Saskatchewan farmers.

Thank you for helping us bring a little homemade comfort into our school and for helping us celebrate our amazing local farming community. We appreciate your support so much!" – Leilah Williams, Ecole Palliser Heights School

"St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre is extremely grateful for the support received through the AITC oat bursary, which has made a significant difference in our nutrition program and the well-being of our students.

Thanks to this funding, we have been able to provide healthy snacks and nutritious food options to students at the end of our school year. For many children, access to nutritious food during the school day helps them stay focused, engaged, and ready to learn. The program has ensured that all students have access to healthy choices, creating a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

The impact of the nutrition program extends far beyond the food itself. Students are better able to concentrate in class, participate in activities, and develop healthy eating habits. The program has also helped reduce barriers for families and provided peace of mind knowing their children have access to nutritious meals and snacks while at school.

We have seen firsthand how the AITC oat bursary has strengthened our school community and supported student success. We sincerely appreciate AITC's commitment to investing in the health and well-being of children. This funding has had a lasting and meaningful impact on our students, and we are grateful for the opportunities it continues to provide.” – Teacher, St. Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre

“Thanks to the bursary we could provide multiple meals per day for those students in vulnerable situations. Thanks!” – Anonymous

“Agriculture in the Classroom is a great resource, and the Oats Bursary has been well received in our school. Knowing that the money helps to support the program makes it easier to help feed our students every day. Students are being fed healthy, filling food items to help them be focused and more settled throughout the day.” – Kelly Walker, Esterhazy High School

Photos:





