

School food programs



School food programs are becoming a regular feature of many schools across Queensland. Breakfast and lunch programs help to improve student health and learning outcomes and socialisation, and encourage increased attendance and performance.

Healthy eating, along with physical activity, is essential in maintaining good health and wellbeing and can improve behaviours critical to educational success and participation at school.

In 2023, the Queensland Government provided funding to 861 selected schools to support the establishment or enhancement of a school food program for their students.

In May 2024, the Queensland Government announced an additional \$10.7 million in funding to support school food programs. All 623 Queensland state schools that applied through the expression of interest process will receive funding to support school food programs.

At Bellevue Park State School (BPSS) the food program offers the School Food Program as “Belly’s Bites”. Belly’s Bites helps build a culture where students feel connected to the school community through a warm welcome, nutritious food and a great start to the day, every day. Students feel cared for through the provision of healthy food to fuel their day of learning.

- At breakfast, students can choose to eat toast with a variety of spreads, cereal and fresh fruit to get them ready for a great day of learning.
- For lunch, students can choose to eat a sandwich with a variety of spreads, fresh cut vegetables

In addition to feeling connected, Belly’s Bites, aims to have a positive impact on students in the following ways;

- Student engagement and attendance by providing a supported transition between home and school.
- Provides opportunity for staff to build rapport with students.
- Student supported to build new friendships through ‘cafeteria style’ eating
- Students supported to develop oral language skills through modelling and conversation starters.
- Explicit instruction and modelling of ‘restaurant rules’

Belly’s Bites supports BPSS’s existing Breakfast Club run by our P & C and volunteer staff and senior students which is offered to the whole school community each Friday morning before school.

