



Ways to Serve your School

Here are **ideas from church partners** across the state:

Teacher Appreciation

- Provide snacks or a meal (breakfast or lunch) for teachers during orientation week.
- Pay for a food truck to come in and provide lunch or a treat for teachers. (One church is providing Kona Ice.)
- Write notes of encouragement for each teacher.
- Plan to celebrate teacher birthdays throughout the year with a card/small gift.
- Focus on first year teachers; give personal notes and gift cards to help with room set up (Target, Michaels, Wal-Mart) – or treat them with Chick-fil-A, Starbucks or Dunkin Donut. (Sometimes businesses will make donations as well. Don't be afraid to ask!)
- Fill a “survival kit” bag for each teacher (www.positivepromotions.com is a great site for bags).
- Ask your principal if they have international teachers who will need assistance. (If you are interested in this ministry, give me a call.)
- Collect school supplies for teachers – including cleaning supplies.
- Provide/pay for hand sanitizer stations in the schools.
- Purchase recess equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc.) since classes will not be sharing.
- PRAY for teachers, administrators and staff. Organize a prayer walk. If you cannot do this – have a Prayer “Call” and meet over Zoom to pray. Pray for schools during weekly worship services. Pray specifically for teachers/staff in your church.

Needs of Students

- Provide childcare/e-learning support for children who would otherwise be left at home while parents work. (Call our office for more details.)
- Be a “hot-spot” for students without internet in their area.
- Collect school supplies for students.
- Since you can't be a Reading Buddy, ask your principal if they would like Writing Buddies for their students.
- Be a virtual classroom reader. Does your school have technology to make this happen?
- Gift students with books to read at home.
- Build and stock a Lending Library for your elementary school if students will not have access to the school library.
- Provide kid-sized face masks for students – especially those in rural areas. (Contact our office for a great resource.)

- High School students (especially Seniors) need opportunities to prepare them to be “career ready”. Ask the guidance counselor to identify “at risk” students and provide mentoring/job shadowing for these students. Look within your congregation for those with jobs conducive to job shadowing or an internship.
- Continue providing Backpacks of food for the weekend. Check in with your guidance counselor or social worker to see if needs have increased. If you cannot provide ongoing support, see if a food drive would be helpful. District social workers may be collecting food to distribute in needed areas.
- PRAY for students and their families. Do this in an organized way, personally and/or in your church services.

Heart4Schools has available funds, made possible through the Janie Chapman Missions Offering, to help with service to your schools. If you need help with a school project, email or call Angela McNeal (angelamcneal@scbaptist.org, 803-227-6079) and ask for a **Grant Application Form**. We would love to partner with you in serving your local school!

This SCBC resource is made possible through the Cooperative Program giving of South Carolina Baptist churches