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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AUSD's Grab 'N' Go Breakfast Program Wins USDA "Champions of Breakfast" Award

With help from AASA, Walmart Foundation and CDE grants, AUSD students are fueling their mornings to increase health and concentration

Thanks to the AUSD's new Grab 'N' Go program funded by a combination of grants from the School Superintendents Association (AASA), the Walmart Foundation and the California Department of Education, Alhambra USD students are grabbing the most important meal for learning and health, one most of them had been skipping — breakfast.

For its innovative school breakfast model, the USDA recently awarded Alhambra USD's Grab 'N' Go breakfast program its "Champions of Breakfast" Award during National School Breakfast Week in March 2018.

The initial CDE start-up summer meal expansion grant of \$134,765 in May 2017 was followed in September 2017 by support from **AASA and the Walmart Foundation, both so impressed with the AUSD new approach to student morning nutrition that they awarded a \$132,485 grant for the Grab 'N' Go Breakfast program. The only district in California to win such a ASSA + Walmart Foundation grant, AUSD was also one of only eight districts in the country sponsored by the Walmart Foundation.**

Last year, when AUSD Superintendent Denise Jaramillo, Director of Business Services Vivien Watts and William Fong, Director of Food and Nutrition, looked at data showing that students were not eating breakfast offered in the school cafeteria or at home because they were

rushing to be on time for class, the trio noticed some staggering statistics. With only 16.8 percent of K-8 students and only 4.8 percent of high school students were participating in school breakfast on a daily basis, and even fewer eating breakfast at home, William Fong set out to develop a comprehensive District plan to change those numbers, a plan in keeping with its Whole Student approach to academic success.

To make it easier, faster and more tempting to give the students the edge they need to succeed in school and stay healthy, William Fong created the Grab 'N' Go breakfast program. The program involves setting up multiple breakfast stations on campuses to provide a variety of portable, pre-wrapped, nutritious meal options at school entrances, in parking lots, hallways and other high traffic areas.

Building a new, flexible, quasi-food truck, mobile kiosk breakfast model for a district with 17,000 students on 19 campuses required funding assistance, a road map and a roll-out strategy. **Breakfasts marked EAT NOW and TAKE NOW/EAT LATER give students new ways to get the nutrition they need to concentrate, stay healthy, increase academic success and social emotional learning, and reduce behavior problems, nurse visits and tardiness.**

The Grab 'N' Go program rolled out at Alhambra High School in October 2017, and has since been implemented at Mark Keppel High School, San Gabriel High School, Ramona Elementary, Northrup Elementary, and Ynez, Park Garfield and Emery Park and Baldwin Elementary Schools. According to new data, the number of students eating breakfast has increased by 28 percent in February 2018 when compared to same month last year.

As part of the Grants' outreach mandates, AUSD is also publishing research-based Benefits of Breakfast brochures and videos for students and parents. Videos feature students talking on camera about the positive effective of eating breakfast daily.