

News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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Somerset County Launches Project First Class *County Is Seeking Donations of School Supplies to Aid Students in Classrooms and Remote Learning*

SOMERVILLE – Somerset County is sponsoring Project First Class, the annual enterprise that collects donations of school supplies for children of families who are served by the Food Bank Network and other nonprofit organizations in Somerset County.

“There may be a misconception that since children are taking classes remotely, not as many school supplies are needed. Now it’s even more important to donate since children can’t borrow supplies from their friends when taking classes at home,” said Freeholder Deputy Director Sara Sooy. “Due to the COVID-related economic downturn, many families are struggling even harder to make ends meet and need programs like First Class for their children.”



New school supplies such as notebooks, three-ring binders (1½ to 3 inches), pencil cases that fit inside of binders, paper, glue sticks, safety scissors, index cards, highlighters, markers, pens, pencils, crayons and new or gently-used backpacks will be accepted. Non-perishable and canned food will also be accepted.

Organizations, non-profits, religious institutions, and businesses are also encouraged to donate school supplies and canned/non-perishable food during this time. All donations will be distributed by the Food Bank Network of Somerset County to families and students who are in-need.

Donation Locations

Donations can be dropped off on weekdays **now** through **Sept. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, at the front vestibule of the **Administration Building on 20 Grove St.**, Somerville. Because the public is not able to enter the building due to COVID-19, **donations can be left inside the front door**, and Sheriff’s Officers will bring items into the building.

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County is also accepting Project First Class donations. Donations can be dropped off from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, at 9 Easy St., South Bound Brook, NJ 08805. School supplies and food will be accepted now through **Sept. 25**. Donors should practice social distancing and wear masks.

Somerset County Recycling is helping to support Project First Class by accepting donations at the upcoming First Saturday Drop-off event on **Sept. 12, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, at the **Somerset County Recycling Center**, located at 40 Polhemus Lane, Bridgewater. Residents should take this opportunity to recycle their excess items and donate to a worthy cause. For more information, and **social distancing guidelines** visit <http://bit.ly/1stSatSept12>.

For more information, or to arrange another collection location at your organization or business, please contact the Somerset County Public Information Office at PublicInfo@co.somerset.nj.us.

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for [free email alerts](#) at www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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