



SUCCESS 101:
**Polar King
Walk-In Cooler
Upgrade
Powers School's
Year-Round
Meal Program**

The federal government has recently implemented various food supply programs to tackle year-round food insecurity among K-12 students, both in their day-to-day lives and during emergency situations.



This development is highly beneficial for public school systems across the country. However, despite the availability of substantial funding to provide nutritious meals to all students, many schools struggle due to limited storage capacity. Ledyard Public Schools of Connecticut is one such school that has faced this challenge head-on.

According to Wayne Donaldson, facilities director of Ledyard Public Schools, their team promptly identified the need to upgrade storage capacity to meet the requirements of new year-round meal programs and cater to the appetites of the district's 2,000 students across its four schools. He emphasizes that the issue of space constraints is not unique to Ledyard, as limited storage capacity for frozen food is a common problem for schools throughout the United States.



Thankfully, Donaldson was aware of the perfect cold storage solution. “Polar King, being a part of our district’s buying co-op, eliminated the need for bidding,” he explains. Ledyard schools ultimately opted for a cutting-edge 20’x10’ Polar King walk-in freezer unit.

The facilities director recalls that the design phase was incredibly straightforward. “It took approximately two to three weeks, and then another two weeks of communication with Polar King to finalize the details and schedule the delivery,” he recalls.

“This new set-up gives us more workspace and helps streamline our processes.”

~ Wayne Donaldson
Ledyard Public Schools
Facilities Director

Polar King’s sales personnel guided Donaldson through the process of selecting from a wide array of options. The company’s walk-in units are renowned for their high level of customization with minimal limitations, enabling specific design configurations such as multiple rooms and oversized chambers. Polar King’s regional sales manager Dan Parsenow states, “Polar King units are meticulously designed to blend seamlessly with existing school buildings. We can even color match the school or incorporate school colors and logos.”

After Ledyard finalized unit options and Polar King completed fabrication, it was time to install the walk-in at the designated location outside of Ledyard High School. “Once the pad was in place and the rough electric installed, it was only a few hours until the unit was up and running,” Donaldson reports. Polar King units require no assembly, a factor that he says was a major draw for the district.

According to Donaldson, Ledyard created an opening in the high school's kitchen wall to provide direct access to the external unit. He says the foodservice team now utilizes the walk-in freezer inside the high school as a cooler for day-to-day items. "This new set-up gives us more workspace and helps streamline our processes," he adds.

Donaldson anticipates that the Polar King walk-in unit will continue to deliver a positive return on investment in the long term. He notes that the school is particularly thrilled with the unit's closed, seamless design, especially the roof.

The school district says that roof leaks and repairs were a significant concern in the past, but the seamless design of the Polar King unit has completely circumvented this issue. As Parsenow explains, "The unit's 100% seamless fiberglass design creates a continuous surface that keeps the insulated structure intact, preventing moisture damage and bacteria formation."

Polar King notes that seamless walk-ins can easily be cleaned with a hose without damaging the insulation. The fiberglass design of the unit also saves vast amounts of energy when compared to aluminum and steel models on the market, according to Parsenow.

Donaldson says his school appreciates all the time and cost-saving features Polar King walk-in units offer, but it is the industry-leading warranty and third-party certifications from entities such as Miami-Dade and NSF that give the school true peace of mind knowing they have a unit they can count on, even in emergencies and extreme weather conditions.

Reliable food storage is an essential element in powering Ledyard's foodservice team to fulfill their commitment to provide fresh, nourishing meals to the students who depend on them. The Polar King walk-in unit helps them deliver on that promise.



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~ Dan Parsenow
Polar King Regional Sales Manager

ABOUT POLAR KING INTERNATIONAL

The introduction of the Polar King outdoor walk-in freezer into the food service industry was the result of three generations of walk-in refrigeration technology and experience. Polar King's fiberglass, one-piece walk-in cooler is the natural evolution of the walk-in cold storage industry from the conventional metal panel constructed unit. In early 1982, Polar King began operations by constructing and shipping walk-ins from a modest 12,000 sq. ft. facility in New Haven, Indiana. As demand grew for outdoor fiberglass commercial walk-in coolers and commercial walk-in freezers, production was moved to a 251,200 sq. ft. facility located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. For 40 years, Polar King has provided thousands of walk-ins to single-unit operators, chain restaurants, schools, health care facilities, government agencies, and many other industries requiring dependable outdoor walk-in refrigeration.

For more information, visit polarking.com or contact Polar King at (866) 349-7190.

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