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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

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Action Required  
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 Informational

BULLETIN NO. 034-23 Child Nutrition Services

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
School Food Service Supervisors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Breakfast After the Bell in School Year 2023–24

CONTACT: Elizabeth Beechler, Director of School Meal Programs, 360-522-2103,  
[elizabeth.beechler@k12.wa.us](mailto:elizabeth.beechler@k12.wa.us)

## PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

High-needs schools that operate the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are required to implement a Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) program and give students adequate time to eat their breakfast. This bulletin describes steps BAB required schools must take in preparing to implement a BAB program starting in SY 2023–24.

### Requirement – Submit Breakfast After the Bell SY 2023–24 Plan

High-needs schools are defined in [RCW 28A.235.200](#) as any public school where at least 70% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or, if operating the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which has a free claiming percentage of 70% or more. For Provision 2 schools, enrollment and eligibility are adjusted based on enrollment and free or reduced-price eligibility in the base year.

OSPI Child Nutrition Services released the [Schools Required to Implement BAB list](#) in February 2023. All schools required to implement BAB must complete and submit an [Implementation Plan](#) by **May 10, 2023**. This will capture Local Education Agencies' plans for BAB including meal service models and point-of-service meal counting systems.

## Breakfast After the Bell–Background

### Breakfast After the Bell Definition

Breakfast After the Bell is a breakfast that is offered to students after the beginning of the school day. BAB programs give all students the opportunity to eat a nutritious meal at the beginning of the school day. By increasing availability, BAB programs produce higher participation rates than traditional breakfast service. Increased breakfast participation is linked to improved learning outcomes, including attendance, behavior, and academic success.

Breakfast After the Bell changes the timing of breakfast service but is not separate from the USDA School Breakfast Program.

### Key Elements of a Breakfast After the Bell Program:

- Students are freely encouraged to participate in breakfast.
- Students have adequate time to eat their breakfast and are not separated from their peers or excluded from instructional activities.

## Breakfast Counts as Instructional Time

RCW 28A.150.205 provides that Breakfast After the Bell counts as instructional hours if students are provided the opportunity to engage in an educational activity while they eat their breakfast.

## Example of Breakfast After the Bell Models

There are three nationally-recognized BAB models:

### Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC)

Food service staff (sometimes assisted by students) deliver breakfast to each classroom in insulated bags on a cart or mobile shelving unit. Students retrieve their meal to eat at their desks or another approved space in the classroom.

Breakfast in the Classroom is the best model for younger students and has the highest participation increases compared to traditional breakfast. This model may require support from staff outside of food service. All staff working with the program must receive applicable training on their role within the program.

### Grab and Go

Students pick up breakfast in the cafeteria or from a breakfast station in a central location and bring it to class to eat at their desk or another approved classroom location.

### Second Chance

Students eat breakfast during a break in the morning, often after 1st or 2nd period, usually via Grab and Go to the classroom.

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Additional supports and information around BAB can be found on the [School Breakfast Program webpage](#). For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact [SchoolMeals@k12.wa.us](mailto:SchoolMeals@k12.wa.us) or call 360-725-6200. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Tennille Jeffries-Simmons  
Chief of Staff

Leanne Eko  
Chief Nutrition Officer  
Child Nutrition Services

CR:ln

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