

Breakfast After the Bell

The Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act of 2018 expanded breakfast opportunities by requiring Breakfast After the Bell Programs in certain schools. The goal of The Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act is to remove barriers to school breakfast participation and to ensure that all students have access to a morning meal each day.

Requirements

- ✓ Public schools must implement a Breakfast After the Bell Program if:
 - They have a prior-year free and reduced-price percentage of 70% or more. Or,
 - They utilize CEP or Provision 2 to provide universal free meals and have a school free claiming percentage of 70% or more.
- ✓ Schools required to implement a Breakfast After the Bell program must ensure:
 - All students are *freely encouraged* to participate in Breakfast After the Bell.

Nationally Recognized Breakfast After the Bell Models

- ✓ **Breakfast In the Classroom**
 - Breakfast is delivered to and served in the classroom at the start of the school day. This method allows students to eat breakfast with their classmates while their teacher takes attendance, reads, or begins other classroom duties.
 - With this model, it is recommended that traditional breakfast service be eliminated.
- ✓ **Grab and Go**
 - Breakfasts are placed on carts or other convenient locations in high traffic areas. Students pass through a point-of-service and grab easy-to-eat breakfast foods to eat in the classroom at the start of the school day.
 - Grab and Go provides a quick, simple way for students to grab breakfast and is popular in middle and high schools.
- ✓ **Second Chance Breakfast**
 - Breakfast is available both during traditional breakfast (before the bell) and at a second time later in the morning. This second breakfast can be scheduled during an extended passing period or nutrition break.
 - This model works well in secondary schools. Older students are not always hungry when they first arrive at school, but are ready for breakfast later in the morning.

List of Required Schools

Near the beginning of each year, OSPI Child Nutrition Services publishes a list of schools that are impacted by The Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act of 2018. [Click here to access the list.](#)

Best Practices

- ✓ Start planning early - Schools and districts that are close to the 70% free and reduced-price threshold should start planning for possible Breakfast After the Bell implementation.
- ✓ We recommend that students be allowed to eat in the classroom for the Breakfast In the Classroom and Grab and Go models.
- ✓ Explore combining Breakfast After the Bell implementation with the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 to provide universal free meals. This can be particularly helpful for Breakfast In the Classroom, where universal meals simplify the meal counting process significantly.
- ✓ Visit a school that currently operates the Breakfast After the Bell model you are considering implementing. This provides an opportunity to ask specific questions and visualize how the program will work in your situation.
- ✓ We recommend that schools remove the traditional before-school breakfast when utilizing Breakfast In the Classroom or Grab and Go models.
- ✓ Mid-year implementation is encouraged and can work well.

Some Examples of students not being freely encouraged:

- ✓ Students arriving right before the bell were prohibited or discouraged from getting Breakfast After the Bell.
- ✓ Breakfast After the Bell is only served to late students.
- ✓ If a school continues traditional breakfast – Students who arrive early are required to go to traditional breakfast and/or are prohibited from utilizing Breakfast After the Bell.

Resources:

- ✓ [OSPI CNS Breakfast After the Bell Implementation Guide](#)
- ✓ [USDA Eligibility Manual for School Meals](#)

- BAB	Breakfast After the Bell
- CNS	Child Nutrition Services
- LEA	Local Education Agency
- OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction