



## COLORADO HOUSE BILL 13-1006: BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL PROGRAM

On May 15, 2013, Governor John Hickenlooper signed House Bill 13-1006 into law and created Colorado's Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program. The program requires schools where at least 70 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals to offer free breakfast after the official start of school day. The law, which went into effect in the 2014-2015 school year, gives more than 80,000 additional children in the state access to a healthy school breakfast, served after the bell.

### POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Colorado jumped from being ranked 20th in the nation in school breakfast participation to 11th in the first year the law was enacted. Free and reduced-price breakfast participation in Colorado increased nearly 10 percent in the first year of implementation of the state's new law. Participation continues to grow with an additional 1.8 percent increase in low-income student participation in the second year of implementation.<sup>1</sup>

A study examining the impact of breakfast in the classroom programs in Denver found that there was a positive impact on chronic absences, excessive tardiness and office referrals.<sup>2</sup>

Breakfast After the Bell is continuing to support educational initiatives in Colorado. Though early to evaluate effectiveness on academic outcomes, Colorado's four-year high school graduation rate reached a six-year high last year<sup>3</sup> and results from the 2016 administration of the PSAT 10, ACT and the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests showed areas of improvement and some reduction in achievement gaps.<sup>4</sup>



### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program with 70 percent or more students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, from the prior year, must offer a breakfast at no charge to each student after the tardy bell.
- Local school boards, district administration or school administration may determine the breakfast model. Different serving models may include Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go, and breakfast in the cafeteria after first period.
- Schools with 90 percent or more students riding the bus to school can offer breakfast on the bus.
- Small rural school districts with less than 1,000 students are not required to participate.
- Public schools that have a free and reduced-price percentage less than 70 percent for two consecutive years may opt out of the program.



### WHICH SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED?

During the 2014-2015 school year, public schools with 80 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the prior school year were required to participate. For the 2015-2016 school year and thereafter, public schools with 70 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the prior school year must participate. The Colorado Department of Education Office of School Nutrition (CDE) publishes this eligibility data and develops a list of school sites required to participate each year.



### IMPLEMENTATION AND ROLL OUT OF BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

Beginning in school year 2013-2014, CDE conducted subcommittee meetings with staff members and school nutrition directors and developed an implementation guide, resources and trainings. Compliance with Breakfast After the Bell is monitored through the State Administrative Review process.<sup>5</sup>

**“YOU CAN’T LEARN TO WRITE IF YOU’RE HUNGRY, DISTRACTED AND YOU’VE GOT YOUR STOMACH GROWLING,” GOVERNOR HICKENLOOPER SAID TO A CAFETERIA OF SCHOOLCHILDREN AS HE SIGNED THE BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL BILL INTO LAW. “WE’RE GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU GUYS GET THAT CRITICAL FIRST MEAL.”**

<sup>1</sup> FRAC 2015 and 2016 School Breakfast Scorecards

<sup>2</sup> Breakfast in the Classroom: Student Outcome Study Preliminary Findings. The Center for Research Strategies. Tara Wass, Ph.D. Sarah McGuire, M.A. Kaia Gallagher, Ph.D., 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Press release: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20170119graduationrelease>

<sup>4</sup> Press release: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20160811assessmentstatelevelscorererelease>

<sup>5</sup> Breakfast After the Bell Administrative Review: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/osnadminreviewbabnpreview>