



ILLINOIS SENATE BILL 2393: BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

In 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner signed Senate Bill 2393 into law, requiring the implementation of a statewide Breakfast After the Bell program. The new law expands school breakfast access to 175,000 students from schools where more than 70 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. Breakfast After the Bell builds on Illinois' existing laws requiring high needs schools to offer school breakfast and providing additional state reimbursement for each breakfast and lunch served to students eligible for free meals.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

More than 175,000 children could start the day with a healthy breakfast under this new law.

A telephone survey of 500 teachers in Illinois found that of those teachers with existing Breakfast in the Classroom programs, **74 percent said Breakfast in the Classroom was a positive experience. More than two-thirds said the program results in students that are more calm and focused and improves academic performance.**^{1,2}

Breakfast After the Bell could bring an additional \$53 million in Federal funds for Illinois,² if the state's breakfast participation rate increases from the current 47.7 percent of students eligible for free and reduced price meals to the best practice benchmark of 70 percent.



LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Beginning in 2017-18 school year, schools with 70 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals are required to provide breakfast to students after the instructional day has officially begun using a Breakfast After the Bell model.
- Each school may identify the Breakfast After the Bell model that best suits the needs of their students. Acceptable models include Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go and Second Chance Breakfast.
- School districts may be exempt from the Breakfast After the Bell requirement if they demonstrate:
 - They are delivering a school breakfast effectively, as defined by 70 percent or more of the free and reduced-price students participating in the School Breakfast Program, or
 - The expense reimbursement would not fully cover the costs of implementing and operating a Breakfast After the Bell program.



THE PATH TO PASSAGE

In Illinois, more than 801,000 students depend on a free or reduced price school lunch, but fewer than half of those children receive a school breakfast.¹ The state of Illinois ranks 43rd in the nation for low-income student participation in the School Breakfast Program.² Advocates worked with the General Assembly to create a school breakfast resolution, analyzed the potential financial impact of Breakfast After the Bell throughout the state, and collaboratively crafted legislation to better meet the needs of the one in five children in Illinois facing food insecurity.³ The resulting bill passed unanimously in both the House and Senate propelled by a broad coalition of stakeholders.



WHICH SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED?

The law will increase school breakfast availability in at least 1,100 schools, where more than 70 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals.



IMPLEMENTATION AND ROLL OUT OF BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

Full implementation will begin in the 2017-2018 school year. The Illinois State Board of Education will develop and distribute guidelines for implementation, collect information about breakfast delivery models, and collaborate with school districts and nonprofit organizations with expertise in health equity, hunger and food insecurity to identify best practices and grant opportunities to support school breakfast programs.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository has also been educating schools about the legislative requirements and providing them with implementation tools. This includes visiting schools to provide technical assistance, and working with No Kid Hungry to create a Breakfast After the Bell Implementation Toolkit that contains resources for multiple school stakeholders.

¹ No Kid Hungry - Illinois, Micro Report, April 2016. https://www.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/NKH_MicroReport_IllinoisPoll.pdf

² 2017 Illinois School Breakfast Report - Rise & Shine Illinois

³ http://everthriveil.org/sites/default/files/docs/pr/SB2393_Breakfast_2016.pdf

⁴ FRAC 2015-2016 School Breakfast Report Card

⁵ http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2014/IL_AllCounties_CDs_MMG_2014.pdf