



NEVADA SENATE BILL 503: BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL PROGRAM

Governor Brian Sandoval signed Nevada's Senate Bill 503 into law on June 12, 2015, enacting the Breakfast After the Bell Program. The bill required all Nevada schools where at least 70 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals to implement an option for students to have access to breakfast after the start of the school day. The bill also set aside \$2 million in grant money to assist with implementation in the first two years. The following information provides a summary of key provisions and implementation steps as well as successful outcomes to date.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Breakfast participation doubled.

In the first year of implementation, Nevada increased breakfast participation from 20% to 44% among qualifying schools over the same time in the previous school year. The state experienced the largest percentage increase in breakfast participation in the country after the first year of implementation. Preliminary data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture from the 2016-2017 school year indicate continued growth with school breakfast participation up 13.3% in December 2016 over December 2015.¹

In a survey of 271 teachers impacted by the new law, two out of three said that **fewer students are hungry in morning because of Breakfast After the Bell.**

Breakfast after the Bell increased federal funds for Nevada.

Following the first full year of implementation the NDA found a return on investment (ROI) of \$8 in federal funds claimed through reimbursements for each \$1 invested by the state. This ROI is more than double the state agency's initial estimate.¹



LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- The final law requires schools with 70 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals to provide breakfast to students after the instructional day has officially begun.
- Breakfast After the Bell was required to be available on the first day of the 2015-2016 school year.
- Each eligible school may choose the type of model implemented including, but not limited to, Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go, and Second Chance.
- The Governor's budget included \$2 million over the course of two years for start-up funds to aid schools with initial implementation. Funds could be spent on a variety of Breakfast After the Bell expenses including equipment, staffing and training.
- Schools may opt out after two years if they can demonstrate a financial hardship.
- Schools that do not increase participation by 10 percent are required to submit a work plan with strategies to meet those goals.
- The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) must provide an annual progress report with information on grant awards and participation increases.



COLLABORATION ON BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL LEGISLATION

Nevada First Lady Kathleen Sandoval and other key political and state officials created the Governor's Council on Food Security and developed a strategic plan to address food insecurity in the state. The Governor's Council worked with the state legislature in 2015 to craft legislation to achieve key policy priorities. They also built a diverse coalition, including advocacy and education stakeholders, to support school breakfast legislation. The result of this collaborative process was a bipartisan bill that passed with broad support.



WHICH SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED?

Nine school districts in the state, were required to participate. Almost 130,000 students in these impacted districts are eligible for free or reduced price meals. With 161,260 children living in food insecure households in Nevada, this new law has the potential to significantly impact childhood hunger.²



HOW ARE GRANT FUNDS USED?

Grant funds are allowable for use toward equipment, staff time or activities to support the implementation of Breakfast After the Bell. The following items are allowable uses:

- Large equipment such as refrigerators or ovens
- Small supplies including serving utensils or carts to deliver food to classrooms
- Laptops to increase points of service
- Staff expenses such as training and direct labor hours
- Education and outreach materials to encourage participation in the breakfast program

In 2015-2016, 109 schools in seven districts received \$1 million in grant awards. Only eligible schools that had not previously implemented breakfast after the bell were eligible for grant funds in the first year of funding. In the 2016-2017 school year, NDA awarded \$988,027 in grants to 98 schools.

¹ Share Our Strength's Center on Best Practices offers primers on breakfast delivery models such as these, as well as toolkits and implementation guides for anti-hunger groups, educational institutions, and policy-makers.

² Map the Meal Gap 2016