



THE WEST VIRGINIA FEED TO ACHIEVE BILL

In April 2013, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 663, creating the West Virginia Feed to Achieve Act. The bill, sponsored by Senator John R. Unger and signed into law by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, has realigned breakfast with the instructional day, giving every student the chance to eat a nutritious school breakfast. The Feed to Achieve Act required all public schools to implement innovative breakfast delivery strategies that provide students with a minimum of two nutritious meals per day and, where feasible, at no cost to the student. As a result of this legislation, West Virginia now leads the nation, ranked first, in school breakfast participation.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

During the 2014-15 school year, the year following the legislation, West Virginia schools saw a 14.3 percent increase in the number of low-income students eating breakfast. **In 2015-2016 West Virginia was the top ranking among the states for the third year in a row, reaching almost 84 low-income children with school breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch, and growing participation by 4.6 percent over the previous year.¹**

Because of the efforts of Feed to Achieve, **the federal revenue for the School Breakfast Program in West Virginia has increased by over \$6.4 million since implementation.²**

The Feed to Achieve Act is supporting several statewide initiatives to increase the graduation rate. The average graduation rate in West Virginia rose 3 percent from 86.5 percent in the 2014-2015 school year to 89.81 percent in 2015-2016.^{3,4}



LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Requires all schools to adopt an innovative breakfast delivery system by the start of the 2014-15 school year that ensures all students have an adequate opportunity to eat breakfast.
- Approved delivery systems include, but are not limited to, Grab and Go, Breakfast in the Classroom, and Second Chance Breakfast.
- Requires schools to provide students with a minimum of two nutritious meals per day.
- Requires the Department of Education and each county Board of Education to establish funds or nonprofit foundations to collect private donations to pay for the meals and other food-related programs in the state's public schools.
- Requires the Office of Child Nutrition to report annually the impact of the Feed to Achieve Act and any recommendations for legislation.



WHICH SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED?

All public schools are required to offer innovative breakfast methods. West Virginia serves more than 2.9 million school breakfasts monthly to students at more than 700 schools and feeding sites throughout the state.



IMPLEMENTATION AND ROLL OUT OF BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

Schools were required to establish Breakfast After the Bell programs by the start of the 2014-15 school year. To support their efforts, the Department of Education offers extensive training and technical assistance for school nutrition professionals and has developed a range of resources to facilitate implementation. In 2016, the Department launched the West Virginia Feed to Achieve website and a statewide marketing campaign.

“WE CAN HAVE THE BEST SCHOOLS, THE BEST TEACHERS AND THE BEST TECHNOLOGY BUT IF THAT CHILD IS HUNGRY OR WORRIED ABOUT THE NEXT MEAL, THEY’RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO LEARN FULLY.”

- SENATOR JOHN UNGER

¹ FRAC 2015-2016 school breakfast scorecard

² West Virginia Office of School Nutrition 2015 Scorecard: <https://wvde.state.wv.us/feed-to-achieve/FTA-Scorecard.pdf>

³ Press release: <https://wvde.state.wv.us/news/3328/>

⁴ <https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/index.cfm>