

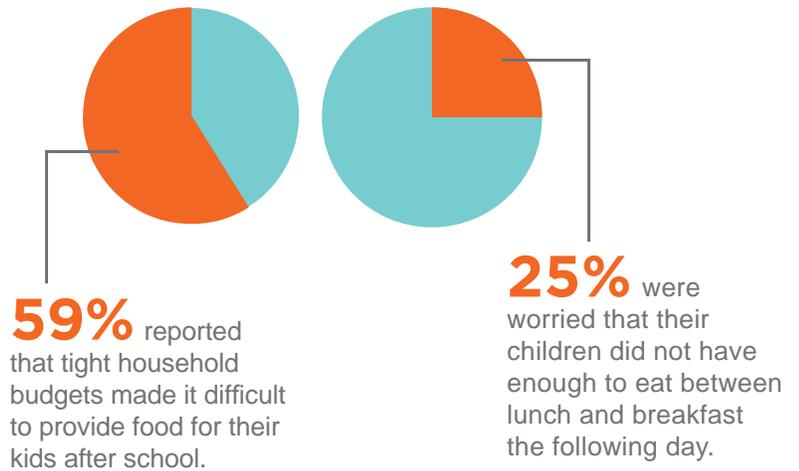
The Umbrella Model

Increases Participation in Afterschool Meals

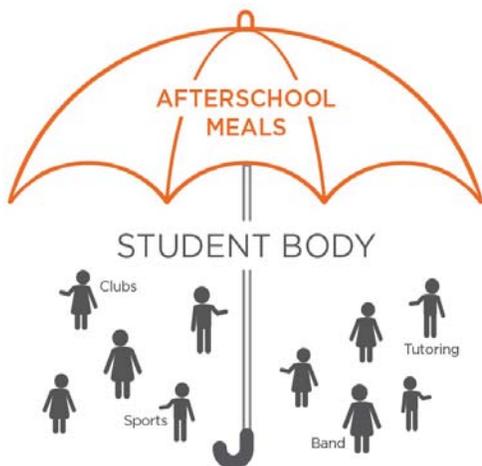
THE PROBLEM

Increasing access to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Afterschool Meals Program, also known as the Supper Program, is critical to ending childhood hunger. Currently, only a fraction of the children who receive a free or reduced-price lunch at school have access to a meal or snack after school.

In a national survey of low-income parents¹



A MODEL THAT WORKS



PROVEN RESULTS

In fall 2015, No Kid Hungry gave small incentive grants to 16 middle and high schools to test the Umbrella Model. Of schools with historical data available, the median participation increase was 53%. Of all pilot schools who opened the meal program to all students, participation was 45% higher on average than predicted for a “closed model” (i.e., only activity students could participate).

WHAT IS THE UMBRELLA MODEL?

An afterschool meal delivery model that can boost participation. Meals are available and promoted to all students, whether or not they participate in afterschool activities.

53% increase in participation



Before Pilot

During Pilot



This work has been made possible through the generous support of a National No Kid Hungry Innovation Partner, Tyson Foods, Inc.

¹No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices in partnership with APCO Insights (2014). “National Afterschool Meals Program Survey Findings.”

How Does My School Get Started?



IDENTIFY A CHAMPION

A leader is crucial to ensure coordination of effort among food service, afterschool programs, athletics, and custodial staff. Look for an administrator or someone else with the enthusiasm and influence to secure buy-in and address stakeholder concerns.



ADDRESS COMMON CONCERNS

- Staff may express concerns about supervision or potential discipline issues among students not affiliated with an activity. All schools in our pilot reported that they did not experience increased discipline problems as a result of opening the meal to all students. Schools may wish to have an extra staff person present (often the champion themselves) until they feel more confident that discipline will not be an issue.
- Schools should offer explicit instructions and reminders to students about rules for trash disposal. Typically students learn the new routine and expectations around trash within one week of starting the program.



DECIDE WHERE TO SERVE MEALS

Meals should be served in a central and easily accessible location. Whenever possible, consider service alternatives that will boost participation, such as more than one serving location, more than one point of service, and direct delivery to large activities.



CHOOSE AN ATTENDANCE TRACKING METHOD

Because the meal is open to all students, attendance must capture all meal recipients by name--not just activity participants. Some options to consider include a sign-in sheet, an electronic point-of-service system, or a student body roster students use to check off their name. As with all changes in record-keeping, contacting your state agency is recommended.



PROMOTE TO STUDENTS

Students in our pilot most commonly reported hearing about the afterschool meal on the announcements (61%) or from a teacher, coach, or other staff member (51%). Be sure you make frequent announcements and ask your staff to remind students to get a meal.