Breakfast After the Bell

Washington ranks 41st out of 50 states in reaching low-income students with nutritious school breakfasts. Without a healthy breakfast, a student’s chance of success is drastically reduced.

The good news is there’s a solution: Breakfast After the Bell incorporates the most important meal into the school day – just like lunch!

Barriers to Breakfast

Serving breakfast in the cafeteria before the school day starts presents many obstacles for kids and families. Bus and carpool schedules, social stigma, and peer pressure prevent kids from eating school breakfast at that time.

Moving breakfast to after the bell removes these barriers and increases participation.

A Guarantee for the Kids Who Need It Most

This bill would give kids in high needs schools food where and when it matters. Starting in the 2016-17 school year, schools where at least 70% of students are eligible for free or reduced price meals would be required to offer breakfast after the start of the school day.

- More than 400 high-needs schools will benefit from Breakfast After the Bell under this legislation – 17% of schools statewide.
- 25,000 more low-income students will access breakfast each day under Breakfast After the Bell as compared to traditional breakfast programs
- The state will earn an additional $23 million in federal reimbursements to support the program

Schools have had the option to serve breakfast after the bell now, but school adoption of the program has remained low. Kids in high-needs schools need a guarantee.

Support for Start-Up Costs

While Breakfast After the Bell is self-supporting once it gets going, schools need some support to get the program up and running. This bill provides each school required to implement Breakfast After the Bell with a one-time start-up allocation of up to $6,000 to cover the cost of food carts, additional staffing, or other program expenses. Schools have the flexibility to choose the model they’d like for serving breakfast after the bell, such as Grab and Go, Second Chance Breakfast, or Breakfast in the Classroom.

For more information

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