

Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program

Overview of House Bill 13-1006

The Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program was created by House Bill 13-1006 and implementation began in school year 2014-2015. The purpose of this program is to offer a breakfast, at no charge, to each student enrolled in a public school that has 70 percent or more students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Office of School Nutrition (OSN) assists school districts with the implementation of this state law by providing an implementation guide, resources, training and technical assistance.

Program objectives

- Increase the number of children eating breakfast on school days
- Increase the consumption of nutritious foods, making breakfast programs more effective
- Improve academic performance by preparing children to learn
- Improve the overall health of children in Colorado
- Generate additional revenue for school nutrition programs through federal and state reimbursements

Program guidelines

Criteria for participation

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year and each year thereafter, public schools participating in the NSLP with 70 percent or more students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals, from the prior year, must offer a breakfast at no charge to each student after the tardy bell. Schools must implement programs by the first day of the school year in which they are required to participate.

- Pupil membership (October count) data from the prior school year must be used to determine district enrollment and school free and reduced price percentages. This data is typically available in January each year.
- School food authorities must use pre-K–12 pupil membership data that is published on the CDE website. To access current pupil membership data, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrentschool.

Exemptions

- Public or charter schools who do not participate in the NSLP
- School districts with less than 1,000 students

Implementation Timeline

School year 2013—2014

- The CDE Office of School Nutrition conducted subcommittee meetings with staff members and school nutrition directors
- The CDE Office of School Nutrition and the subcommittee developed an implementation guide, resources and trainings

School year 2014—2015

- Public schools participating in the NSLP with 80 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals in the prior school year were required to participate

School year 2015—2016 and thereafter

- Public schools participating in the NSLP with 70 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals in the prior school year must participate



- Public schools that have a free and reduced price percentage less than 70 percent for two consecutive years have the option to continue to participate, but are not required to.
- If federal per-meal reimbursements for free or reduced price school breakfast and lunch decrease below the 2013 levels or are eliminated, schools required to offer breakfast under the Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program will be exempt.

Meal pattern

- Breakfast meals served under the Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program must meet federal and state School Breakfast Program rules and regulations, including nutrition and meal pattern requirements.

Serving model

- Districts, schools or local boards may determine the breakfast model and serving time, as long as it occurs after the tardy bell.
- Serving models may include breakfast in the classroom, breakfast in the cafeteria after the tardy bell and grab 'n go.

Time of service

- Breakfast must be served after the time the student would be considered tardy. Schools cannot add a first bell before the tardy bell to meet the requirements of this bill (i.e. a zero bell is not allowed).
- A school that offers breakfast to students before the bell may continue to do so. Schools with new Breakfast After the Bell Programs may offer breakfast before the bell to students arriving early. However, all schools must offer breakfast after the bell to any student who does not receive a breakfast before the bell.

Program compliance

- The CDE Office of School Nutrition offers technical assistance to public schools and school districts concerning compliance with the Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program requirements, School Breakfast Program requirements, claims for reimbursement and other rules and regulations associated with the administration of this program.
- Compliance will be assessed through the Administrative Review process.
- Noncompliance will be addressed through technical assistance and corrective action, dependent upon the severity of the findings.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Where can I learn more?

- To learn more about the Breakfast After the Bell Nutrition Program visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/osnbreakfastafterthebellnutritionprogramhb13-1006>
- For questions, contact Amanda Mercer at mercera@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6659.
- To access School Breakfast Resources, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/breakfast
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs