

Breakfast After The Bell Legislation

Co-sponsored by State Sen. Sal DiDomenico (S. 242) and State Rep. Aaron Vega (H.327)



Kids Start the School Day Hungry



Benefits of Breakfast

- Improved dietary intake and better health outcomes
- Improved test scores— one study reports increase by 17.5 percent in math scores
- Lower rates of behavioral issues
- Higher attendance and lower tardiness
- Fewer visits to school nurse
- Destigmatizes school breakfast as a program for low-income students

Benefits of Breakfast After the Bell for Schools and Local Economy

- Helps close the achievement gap.
- Federal reimbursements to high-poverty schools up to \$2.04 for each breakfast meal served. Participation rates of 80 percent or higher could result in approximately \$30 million in reimbursements to schools statewide.
- Creates more full-time school nutrition jobs in school districts.

- 1 in 7 kids in Massachusetts lives in a food-insecure household.
- Nearly 300,000 kids in low-income schools are eligible for free and reduced price breakfast, but only half participate.
- Hungry kids can't concentrate, have lower academic achievement, suffer cognitive and developmental impairments, exhibit more behavioral problems, are absent more, visit the nurse more often, and are at higher risk of obesity.

Breakfast After the Bell Legislation will:

- ✓ Alleviate childhood hunger by requiring schools with 60 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals to serve breakfast after the bell.
- ✓ Increase breakfast access to nearly 150,000 kids in about 600 high-poverty schools across the Commonwealth.
- ✓ Allow schools to implement a Breakfast After the Bell model of their choice, e.g., Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab-and-Go, Second Chance
- ✓ Draw bipartisan support on the national, state and local level, and in the Commonwealth is being championed by the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts and health, education, agricultural and business organizations statewide.