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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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Action Required
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 Informational

BULLETIN NO. 008-22 Child Nutrition Services

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School Food Service Supervisors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Breakfast After the Bell in School Year 2022–23

CONTACT: Mikhail Cherniske, Administrative Program Specialist - Legislation
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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

High-needs schools that operate the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are required to implement a Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) program and give students adequate time to eat their breakfast. Implementation of this requirement was paused during School Year SY 2020–21 and 2021–22 due to the COVID pandemic. This bulletin describes steps BAB required schools must take in preparing to implement a BAB program starting in SY 2022–23.

Requirement – Submit Breakfast After the Bell SY 2022–23 Plan

High-needs schools, are defined in [RCW 28A.235.200](#) as any public school where at least 70% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or, if operating the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), has a free claiming percentage of 70% or more. OSPI Child Nutrition Services will be releasing the *Breakfast After the Bell SY 22–23 Plan* in February 2022. This will capture school district plans for BAB. Schools required to implement BAB must complete and submit a plan. Additional resources to support BAB efforts will also be available.

Breakfast After the Bell—Background

Breakfast After the Bell Definition

Breakfast After the Bell is a breakfast that is offered to students after the beginning of the school day. BAB programs give all students the opportunity to eat a nutritious meal at the beginning of the school day. By increasing availability, BAB programs produce higher participation rates than traditional breakfast service. Increased breakfast participation is linked to improved learning outcomes, including attendance, behavior, and academic.

Breakfast After the Bell changes the timing and location of breakfast but is not a separate school nutrition program from the USDA School Breakfast Program. The three nationally recognized models of BAB are:

- **Breakfast in the Classroom**– Breakfasts are served in the classroom
- **Second Chance Breakfast**– In addition to traditional, before school breakfast, breakfast is available a second time during a nutrition break or between classes.
- **Grab and Go**– Easy to eat foods are available for students to take to the classroom at the start of the school day.

Key Elements of an acceptable Breakfast After the Bell program:

- Students are freely encouraged to participate in breakfast.
- Students have adequate time to eat their breakfast and should not be separated from their peers or excluded from instructional activities.

Breakfast Counts as Instructional Time

RCW 28A.150.205 provides that Breakfast After the Bell counts as instructional hours as long as students are provided the opportunity to engage in educational activity while they eat their breakfast.

Example of Breakfast After the Bell Models

Breakfast in the Classroom

Food service staff (sometimes assisted by students) deliver breakfast to each classroom in insulated bags on a cart or mobile shelving unit. Students retrieve their meal to eat at their desks or another approved space in the classroom.

Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) is the best model for younger students and has the highest participation increases compared to traditional breakfast.

Grab and Go

Students pick up breakfast in the cafeteria or from a breakfast station in a central location and bring it to class to eat at their desk or another approved classroom location.

Second Chance

Students eat breakfast during a break in the morning, often after 1st or 2nd period, usually via Grab and Go to the Classroom.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Mikhail Cherniske at 360-999-0962 or email Mikhail.Cherniske@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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CR:ln

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