

Old Capitol Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

k12.wa.us



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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 Informational

BULLETIN NO. 022-25 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 2025–26

CONTACT: Elizabeth Beechler, Director of School Meal Programs, 360-522-2103,
elizabeth.beechler@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) [28A.235.210](#) requires high-needs schools that operate the School Breakfast Program (SBP) to implement a Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) program and give students adequate time to eat breakfast. This bulletin describes steps BAB required schools must take in preparing to operate BAB in SY 2025–26.

High-needs schools are defined as any public school where at least 70% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or, if operating the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which has a free claiming percentage of 70% or more. For Provision 2 schools, enrollment and eligibility are adjusted based on enrollment and free or reduced-price eligibility in the base year. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) released the [Schools Required to Implement BAB list](#) in February 2025.

Breakfast After the Bell SY 2025–26 Plan

All schools required to operate BAB must complete and submit an Implementation Plan by **May 9, 2025**. Implementation plans will be emailed to each Local Education Agency to capture their plans for BAB, including meal service models and point-of-service meal counting systems.

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. 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 success.

Breakfast After the Bell adjusts the timing of breakfast service but is not separate from the USDA School Breakfast Program.

Key Elements of a Breakfast After the Bell Program:

- All students are freely encouraged to participate in breakfast.
- All students have adequate time to eat their breakfast and are not 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 if students are provided the opportunity to engage in an educational activity while they eat breakfast.

Examples of Breakfast After the Bell Models

There are three nationally recognized BAB models:

Breakfast in the Classroom

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 is the best model for younger students and has the highest participation increases compared to traditional breakfast. This model may require support from staff outside of food service. All staff working with the program must receive applicable training on their role within the program.

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

Additional supports and information around BAB can be found on the [School Breakfast Program webpage](#). For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact SchoolMeals@k12.wa.us or call 360-725-6200. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

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

Tennille Jeffries-Simmons
Chief of Staff

Leanne Eko
Chief Nutrition Officer
Child Nutrition Services

CR:ln

Assurance of Civil Rights Compliance

The Sponsor hereby agrees that it will comply with: i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.); ii. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.); iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); iv. Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.); v. Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended by the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 12131-12189); vi. Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." (August 11, 2000); vii. All provisions required by the implementing regulations of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) (7 CFR Part 15 et seq.); viii. Department of Justice Enforcement Guidelines (28 CFR Parts 35, 42 and 50.3); ix. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directives and guidelines to the effect that, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Program applicant receives Federal financial assistance from USDA; and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take measures necessary to effectuate this Agreement. x. The USDA non-discrimination statement that in accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

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By accepting this assurance, the Sponsor agrees to compile data, maintain records, and submit records and reports as required, to permit effective enforcement of nondiscrimination laws and permit authorized USDA personnel during hours of program operation to review and copy such records, books, and accounts, access such facilities and interview such personnel as needed to ascertain compliance with the nondiscrimination laws. If there are any violations of this assurance, the Department of Agriculture, FNS, shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Sponsor, its successors, transferees and assignees as long as it receives assistance or retains possession of any assistance from USDA.

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