

Frequently Asked Questions: Senate Bill 503 - Breakfast After the Bell

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FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions *Senate Bill 503* *Breakfast After The Bell*

What is SB 503?

Signed into law on June 12, 2015, Senate Bill (SB 503) mandates that all schools with a free and reduced lunch eligibility of 70 percent or greater serve breakfast after the start of the school day. This bill is intended to increase access to breakfast so that students start the day well-nourished and ready to learn.

The bill is supported by the First Lady Kathleen Sandoval because extensive research has shown that students who consume breakfast score higher on academic tests, have fewer behavioral issues and fewer visits to the school nurse.

Who does this impact?

Schools that have a free or reduced lunch eligibility rate of 70 percent or greater were targeted for this legislation because children from those schools are most likely to be living in food insecure households. Children in food insecure households don't have access to enough nutritious food to support learning, growth and development. SB 503 is intended to provide these children with increased opportunities to eat a nutritious meal at the start of the school day.

All students at eligible schools, not just students eligible for free or reduced price meals, are required to have access to breakfast after the start of the school day.

The list of eligible schools can be found at:
<http://nutrition.nv.gov/data/>

How should my school implement SB 503?

Any breakfast service model that serves breakfast after the start of the school day is allowable. This can include:

- breakfast in the classroom
- second chance breakfast, where breakfast is served after the first period
- grab and go breakfast
- breakfast in the cafeteria

Breakfast in the classroom has been shown to work well in an elementary school environment while a grab and go or second chance breakfast may be a better fit for middle or high schools.

Breakfast in the classroom can also work in secondary schools, and has already been successfully implemented at the middle school level in Washoe County. In higher grades, where the school day starts earlier, second chance breakfast has proven successful because many older children are not hungry when they first wake.

Grab and go breakfast can assist with destigmatizing the school breakfast program, as can could any other breakfast option where breakfast is served somewhere other than the cafeteria.



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How will this impact instruction time?

Because breakfast can occur during instruction, breakfast after the bell should have little to no impact on instruction time.

Students can eat breakfast while teachers are checking to see if homework is completed, doing warm up exercises or making morning announcements.

Does every child have to take a breakfast?

All students at the eligible schools are required to have **access** to breakfast after the bell, however all students are not required to take a breakfast.

How do I apply for a grant?

The Nevada Department of Agriculture is administering the SB 503 grant funds. Grant applications must be submitted online and due dates will be announced as soon as possible. Please contact your school district grants coordinator or Food Service Director for information about how to submit a grant for your school. All eligible schools on the list provided online are required to implement a breakfast after the bell program, regardless of grant funding.

What can the grant funds be used for?

Grant funds can be used for equipment, staff time or activities to support the implementation of breakfast after the start of the school day. The following items would be allowable uses of grant funds:

- Items like refrigerators, ovens or laptops for additional points of service
- Small supplies like serving utensils or carts to deliver food to classroom
- Staff time to deliver food to classrooms or training on how to implement breakfast after the start of the school day
- Education and outreach materials to encourage participation in the breakfast program

How will SB 503 be monitored?

The Nevada Department of Agriculture will be monitoring implementation of breakfast after the bell and is available to provide technical assistance and training as requested by districts.

What are the potential impacts of this grant?

In addition to the many positive results we hope schools and individual children will see, like increased academic performance and higher test scores, this grant is also expected to bring in an additional \$3 million in federal funding to the state through increased breakfast participation.

Information

▶ www.nutrition.nv.gov

Contact

▶ **Food and Nutrition Division**

☎ 775-353-3758

✉ FND@agri.nv.gov

Nevada Department of Agriculture

405 S. 21st Street • Sparks, NV 89431

