

Breakfast After The Bell

Why Legislate? Why Now?

Co-sponsored by State Sen. Sal DiDomenico (S. 242) and State Rep. Aaron Vega (H.327)
Supported by the Rise and Shine Massachusetts Coalition.



Bottom Line:

Serving breakfast after the instructional bell rings is a proven method of successfully increasing participation in free and reduced-price school breakfast – legislating this best practice will ensure eligible Massachusetts students begin the day with full stomachs and ready to learn.

Reasons for Legislation:

- **150,000 eligible children are currently not receiving free or reduced-price breakfast.**
- **Voluntary adoption has been slow** on a school-by-school basis, with a low sense of urgency on the part of many high-poverty schools. In some cases, there are no plans for implementation.
- **Without a requirement, schools can stop serving breakfast after the bell at any time**, without notice, subject to changes in school administration.
- **High-poverty Massachusetts schools stand to gain nearly \$30 million in federal reimbursements** at 80 percent breakfast participation.
- **Ensures consistent access to healthy food to food-insecure children**, boosting nutrition, improving academic performance, and reducing behavioral problems.

“If we don’t nudge good educators, then thousands of children who need the program will remain in a cycle of struggle unnecessarily.”

Superintendent Margarita Ruiz
Salem Public Schools

Learn more about the Breakfast After the Bell legislation and its many benefits at riseandshinema.org or email Catherine Drennan at The Greater Boston Food Bank: cdrennan@gfbf.org