

FIVE MODELS TO BOOST BREAKFAST PARTICIPATION

High student enrollment, early school start times, and long lines in the cafeteria can make it difficult for students to sit down and eat before school begins. Schools use alternative service models to address these challenges and more. Here's a snapshot of five proven models to offer breakfast at school.



BREAKFAST IN THE CLASSROOM

Breakfasts are delivered directly to the classroom where students eat for the first 10-15 minutes of their school day. Great for younger students who start their school day in the same classroom.



GRAB AND GO

Students pick up prepackaged breakfasts from carts or kiosks in high-traffic areas throughout the school. Great for older students who are more mobile.



SECOND CHANCE BREAKFAST

Students eat breakfast during a break in the morning. Meals can be distributed from a cart or kiosk or served in the cafeteria. Great for older students who may not be hungry when they first arrive at school.



BREAKFAST ON THE BUS

Prepackaged meals are served to students as they board the bus in the morning. Great for schools with long bus commutes.



HYBRID MODEL

Make breakfast work for your school by choosing elements of the models to fit your needs. A common hybrid model has students pick up breakfast in the cafeteria and take the meal to the classroom.

Universal Free Meals	COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)	PROVISION 2	NONPRICING
MEALS COVERED	Free breakfast and lunch for all students.	Free breakfast and/or lunch for all students.	No fees collected from students for breakfast.
SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATIONS	Uses data matching with SNAP and other programs to determine the number of "identified students" instead of school meal applications.	School or district collects school meal applications at least once every four years.	Schools continue to collect school meal applications.
MEAL REIMBURSEMENT LEVELS	Schools are reimbursed by multiplying the percentage of "identified students" by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals reimbursed at the free rate. The rest of the meals served are reimbursed at the paid rate.	Based on the ratio of free, reduced-price, and paid meals served in the "base year" when school meal applications are collected.	Continue to receive federal reimbursements for the breakfasts served under the three-tiered (free, reduced-price, and paid) system.
COUNTING AND CLAIMING	Only need to count the total number of meals served.	Only need to count the total number of meals served.	Count the number of breakfasts served under the three-tiered (free, reduced-price, and paid) system.
OPTIMAL PERCENTAGE OF FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE STUDENTS	Must have at least 40% "identified students" to participate, which equates to about 65% free and reduced-price eligible students.	70% free and reduced-price eligible students needed to break even. Schools offering both breakfast and lunch generally have slightly higher free and reduced-price percentages.	70% free and reduced-price eligible students needed to break even. Schools with eligibility rates as low as 60% can operate a free breakfast in the classroom program within budget by taking advantage of economies of scale.