

# SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM IN ILLINOIS

[www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition)

## 1. What is the School Breakfast Program? Are schools mandated to participate in the School Breakfast Program?

The School Breakfast Program is a Federal entitlement program that provides States with cash assistance for non-profit breakfast programs in schools and residential child care institutions. It began as a pilot project in 1966, and was made permanent in 1975. It is administered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Nutrition Programs Division. Participation is open to all public schools or non-profit private schools of high school grade or under as well as residential child care institutions.

(Public Act 096-0158) mandates all public schools in which at least 40 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches to provide a breakfast meal. For additional information on this mandate, as well as the provision to opt-out, go to [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb\\_756.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb_756.htm).

(Public Act 099-0850) mandates all school buildings in which at least 70 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches based upon the previous year's October claim or in which at least 70 percent or more of the students are classified as low-income according to the Fall Housing Data from the previous year or a Community Eligibility Provision site that has an individual site percentage for free or reduced-price meals of 70 percent or more. For additional information on this mandate, as well as the exemption procedures and requirements go to [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb\\_756.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb_756.htm).

## 2. What financial incentives are provided to assist schools in starting and maintaining the School Breakfast Program?

**FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT:** Participating schools and institutions receive federal cash assistance\* for each breakfast served that meets program requirements. A higher rate of reimbursement, also called Severe Need Reimbursement, is available to those schools in which 40% of the students were free or reduced-price in the second preceding school year. A new school that did not operate for the previous two years and would therefore not have claimed, may still be eligible and should contact ISBE Nutrition Programs Division for further guidance.

**STATE REIMBURSEMENT:** Through the Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Program, each free breakfast served is eligible for state reimbursement\*. Actual reimbursement rate depends on total allotted funds and amount of statewide participation.

**STUDENT PAYMENTS:** Schools may charge no more than \$0.30 for a reduced-price breakfast. Schools will set their own prices for breakfasts served to students who pay the full meal price (paid), though they must operate their meal services as non-profit programs.

School food authorities (SFA) submit a monthly claim for reimbursement to ISBE through IWAS/WINS for meals served. No application is required for the severe need reimbursement; the data will automatically be pulled from your claims. Reimbursement is paid on a monthly basis. .

\* For a current listing of reimbursement rates, go to <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> and click on *School Nutrition Program in the current fiscal year*.

#### 4. Does the breakfast have to be served hot and in a traditional setting (cafeteria)?

No, there are alternative routes to serving breakfast, such as breakfast in the classroom, grab 'n go breakfast, and breakfast after first period. To determine which service style will work best for your school, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/toolkit/theres.pdf>.

#### 5. What is breakfast after the bell?

Breakfast after the bell means breakfast is provided to children after the instructional day has officially begun. This term does not prohibit schools from also providing breakfast before the instructional day begins. Schools may choose whatever delivery model that best suits the students.

Typical options include:

- Breakfast in the Classroom: Food is delivered (by staff, students or volunteers) to each classroom after school begins and students are permitted to eat breakfast in the classroom.
- Grab and Go: Students pick up bagged or boxed breakfast from carts or specified areas and are permitted to eat in either designated areas or the classroom.
- Second Chance Breakfast: An extended passing or breakfast period is offered in the cafeteria, following the first or second period of the day.
- Other options include serving breakfast during an early recess or outdoor lesson. As long as breakfast is offered to all students after the instructional day has begun, schools and districts have great flexibility in serving breakfast after-the-bell.

#### 6. Are all sites within a district required to offer breakfast after the bell?

All public school buildings in which at least 70 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches based upon the previous year's October claim or in which at least 70 percent or more of the students are classified as low-income according to the Fall Housing Data from the previous year or a Community Eligibility Provision site that has an individual site percentage for free or reduced-price meals of 70 percent or more. Breakfast after the bell program must operate in each school building which meets the mandate requirements by the first school day of the next academic year after January 1, 2017.

#### 7. What are the meal nutrition requirements for breakfasts offered through the School Breakfast Program? What should I serve for school breakfast?

The Breakfast Food-Based Meal Pattern minimum requirements are three items from three component group. The component groups are as follows: 1) milk as a beverage or on cereal or used in part for each purpose, 2) a serving of fruit or vegetable or both or full-strength fruit or vegetable juice. Juice may only be offered as half of the fruit or vegetable servings weekly and 3) one servings of grain, effective July 1, 2014 all grains must be whole grain rich. Breakfast Food-Based Meal Pattern considers calorie minimums and maximums for grade groupings (K-5, 6-8, K-8, 9-12 or K-12).

**Additional Items:** Meat/meat alternate may be served as an "additional" item and be credited as a second serving of grain or just served as an added item after the requirements are met. Calories from additional foods must be included in the overall calories for the weekly average. **Offer verses Serve:** requires four items must be offered from the three component groups and students may decline any one item. (For additional menu planning resources and offer verses serve information visit:

<http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp-hhfka-fbmp-ns.htm> )

## 8. What are the sponsor's responsibilities for administering the program?

Administrative responsibilities for the program include:

- Maintain financial records to ensure non-profit status
- Provide applications for meal benefits to each household
- Approve and/or deny applications for meal benefits
- Verify current income from a sample of households selected
- Ensure menus adhere to all applicable menu requirements
- Take meal counts at the point of service
- Submit claims for reimbursement
- Competitively bid for purchased food, supplies, equipment, and services as applicable

An annual application must be submitted each year in order to apply for funding. Schools can apply to participate in breakfast at any time throughout the program year which runs July 1 through June 30. .

## 9. How can I apply to become a sponsor?

If you are currently a sponsor of any federal or state school-based nutrition program, simply access your site application in IWAS/WINS and select on School Breakfast Program or IL Free Breakfast. If you are not currently a sponsor of any federal or state school-based child nutrition program, you must apply using the forms at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/program\\_participation.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/program_participation.htm). New applications may be submitted at any time. Applications are valid from the date of approval through June 30 each year.

## 10. Are there any additional application requirements?

FOR PRIVATE NON-PROFIT SCHOOLS—In addition to the above forms, private non-profit schools must be registered as a school by the Illinois State Board of Education and submit a copy of the tax exempt letter showing status under section 501(C)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code.

FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS—Private residential child care institutions must submit a license or a document indicating a license is not required. A copy of the tax exempt letter showing status under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code can serve as documentation.

## 11. Who can I contact if I need assistance?

Contact the ISBE Nutrition Programs Division by phone at 800/545-7892 or email at [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net).