

A CLOSER LOOK AT BREAKFAST IN THE CLASSROOM (BIC)

(Recommended by United Way)



Before school, breakfast is not served. Instead, kitchen staff use this time to load a Breakfast Set (a set of insulated bags used to deliver meals) for each classroom. Breakfast sets are transported to each classroom by student leaders and/or staff. When students arrive at school, they go directly to the classroom where they can access a healthy breakfast as their teacher begins the instructional day.

In each classroom, students are encouraged to participate in breakfast and are allowed adequate time to eat their meal (on average, this all takes about 15 minutes). These can be considered instructional minutes, so long as regular morning tasks occur and instructional activities are offered alongside breakfast. Teachers frequently report taking attendance, making morning announcements, collecting homework assignments, reading aloud, and providing table-group warm-ups.

After breakfast, students clean up their spaces, dispose of breakfast waste in a designated trash can (to be removed from the classroom), and the Breakfast Sets are returned to the cafeteria.

The Details: Point Of Sale

When operating BIC, service occurs and is documented in the classroom. Teachers must be familiar with meal counting, in order to ensure students take each component of a complete meal. Students are typically familiar with these requirements, and learn quickly what is required when taking breakfast, but it is vital that teachers understand what constitutes a reimbursable meal.

Schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision or Provision II may take a simple tally of the number of students eating in each classroom, as they are not required to individually identify students, however schools not participating in these programs must document which students ate. This is typically marked on an attendance sheet or roster.

Considerations: Arrival Times

With breakfast served after the bell, students will not need to arrive early in order to eat. Many schools opt to adjust bus schedules and arrival times to be closer to the start of instruction. This allows for students to arrive and head straight to the classroom to start their day, as opposed to congregating and requiring supervision.

