

HB 1508: The Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act An Overview

On March 7, 2018 Governor Jay Inslee signed HB 1508, the Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act. This bill is a critical step in connecting students to school breakfast through Breakfast After the Bell, a nationally recognized approach to increasing participation in the School Breakfast Program.

Goal of HB 1508:

To break down barriers to students accessing breakfast by ensuring all Washington students have the option to eat School Breakfast every day.

Key requirement of HB 1508:

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, schools with 70% or more free and reduced-price students (or a claiming percentage of 70% or more if operating the Community Eligibility Provision) in October of the previous school year are mandated to offer Breakfast After the Bell.

What Breakfast After the Bell means:

At minimum, every student must have the opportunity and adequate time (10 minutes or more) to eat school breakfast after the bell rings. This applies to all students, regardless of what time they arrive to school, meaning offering breakfast after the bell to only late students does not suffice.

There are three nationally recognized models for Breakfast After the Bell:

- **Breakfast in the Classroom**—Breakfast is delivered to and served in the classroom at the start of the school day. This model is recommended for elementary schools that operate the Community Eligibility Provision or otherwise have free breakfast for all students through universal funding.
- **Grab and Go**—All students pass through a point-of-sale and have the option to grab easy-to-eat breakfast foods (often bagged) to eat in the classroom at the start of the school day.
- **Second Chance**—For students who are not hungry first thing or arrive late to school, breakfast is available at a second time later in the morning (during a passing period, recess, or nutrition break). This model is recommended for secondary schools.

Breakfast now counts as instructional time:

HB 1508 clarifies that the time designated to eat breakfast at the start of the school day counts as instructional time, so long as students are provided an educational activity relevant to their instructional program offered concurrently with the consumption of breakfast.

Resources and support available:

OSPI is partnering with United Way of King County to provide technical assistance and equipment funding. This includes, but is not limited to, model consultation, staff training support, and material creation, such as any needed letters, flyers, announcements, training materials, or one-pagers for successful implementation of Breakfast After the Bell. To connect with United Way of King County's Breakfast After the Bell team, email schoolbreakfast@uwkc.org.