



Office of P-20 Education Policy
Child Nutrition Program Administration
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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents
Principals

FROM: Paula Tyner-Doyle, Child Nutrition Director

SUBJECT: 2018 New York State Assistance Grants to Purchase Equipment and Supplies for School Buildings Required to Offer Breakfast After the Instructional Day has Begun

DATE: August 2018

On April 3, 2018 New York enacted one of the strongest child hunger legislation packages in the nation. Governor Cuomo's plan titled "No Student Goes Hungry" establishes New York as a leader in ensuring access to healthy school meals for students.

One of the plan's major initiatives includes requiring public school buildings in high-poverty areas, in which 70 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, to offer breakfast to students after the instructional day has begun. This initiative is also recognized as "Breakfast After the Bell" (BAB).

One or more of the school buildings in your district has been identified as meeting the 70 percent criteria established in the legislation that will require your district to implement the BAB initiative beginning this fall. In an effort to assist districts required to comply with this new state regulation, the 2018 state budget is providing \$7,000,000 for districts to purchase equipment and supplies necessary to successfully implement the BAB. Districts are encouraged to complete the enclosed application to request a maximum of \$5,000 per school building location.

In determining a service delivery model(s) and equipment needs, schools must consult with teachers, parents, students and members of the community to ensure that the delivery model(s) selected best meet the needs of the school. BAB meal service delivery models may include, but are not limited to, breakfast in the classroom, grab and go breakfast, and second chance breakfast, which would include breakfast served in the cafeteria. Time spent by students consuming breakfast may be considered instructional time when students consume breakfast in the classroom and instruction is being provided.

The New York State Education Department (SED) Child Nutrition staff is available to assist your school(s) as you begin planning and implementing this new state initiative. SED will be conducting six face to face training sessions and a webinar in August ([click here](#)) to review and discuss the details of this legislation as well as to provide all other state and federal program updates. We highly encourage your staff to

attend at least one of these available sessions or the webinar. SED is also assembling resources that can be ordered at no charge to promote all child nutrition initiatives.

SED has also partnered with **Hunger Solutions NY** and **No Kid Hungry NY** that have been tasked with ensuring that New York's schools are maximizing their opportunities for students to access breakfast at school. Districts may contact these organizations to request additional training, support and guidance at no charge to assist your district to successfully implement BAB. (See contact information below).

All schools required to implement BAB are encouraged to incorporate their written BAB plans and processes into the district's local wellness plan as this initiative directly aligns and supports nutrition education/ promotion as well as other school-based activities that promote student wellness. The local wellness plan also includes measures to assist your school(s) to periodically evaluate the level of success in implementing BAB. Districts should also evaluate and consider offering BAB in all school buildings to expand the opportunity for all students to have access to a nutritious breakfast after the instructional day has begun.

In addition, SED will be sending each district required to implement BAB an electronic survey for the purpose of collecting data regarding the barriers that prevent or hinder schools from maximizing the BAB and to identify what additional supports, i.e., equipment, training, resources, etc. are needed. We're asking your assistance to ensure that the survey is completed and returned to SED by September 30, 2018. SED and its partners will evaluate the survey results to identify next steps and any resources necessary to sustain and maintain BAB in schools.

We look forward to working with you and your school(s) and thank you in advance for your support of this important initiative that directly benefits children by encouraging and promoting proper growth, development as well as academic success.

Hunger Solutions NY:

Jessica Pino-Goodspeed at Jessica.PinoGoodspeed@HungerSolutionsNY.org, or visit www.SchoolMealsHubNY.org

No Kid Hungry NY

Rachel Sabella at rsabella@strength.org, or visit <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/>