

Questions & Answers on the FY19 Budget Mandate

Have questions about the Breakfast After the Bell mandate? The Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) and Project Bread are here to help! The following questions are intended to assist you as you choose and implement Breakfast After the Bell programs. Please reach out to DESE and Project Bread's Child Nutrition Outreach Program with any additional questions you may have.

WHERE CAN I SERVE BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL?

Any type of school breakfast being served after the instruction day has begun will meet the mandate. This includes keeping the cafeteria open during first and second period, serving breakfast in the classroom or serving breakfast at any type of kiosk location that makes the most sense for the school.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED "AFTER THE BELL" AND HOW LONG DOES BREAKFAST HAVE TO BE OFFERED?

"After the bell" constitutes breakfast served after the morning (tardy) bell. As long as the students are eating breakfast after the morning (tardy) bell, there is no specific duration that is required.

IS THERE A WAIVER AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLS UNABLE TO MEET THE MANDATE? WHAT IS THE PENALTY IF I CANNOT MEET THE MANDATE?

DESE will be reviewing school compliance during the Administrative Review and will connect separately with the district if they do not meet the mandate. There is no waiver for schools.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JUNE WHEN A NEW BUDGET WILL BE IN PLACE?

We do not know anything beyond the current mandate.

IS THERE FUNDING AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SCHOOLS TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT?

Yes. There are a variety of grants available. Project Bread's Breakfast After the Bell Implementation grant is available to fund any Breakfast After the Bell model and funding may be used for promotional materials, equipment, and/or temporary staffing support. More information can be found at www.meals4kids.org/breakfastgrants. Additional funding opportunities are available at www.meals4kids.org/grants.

I NEED HELP CHOOSING AND IMPLEMENTING A BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL MODEL. WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE?

Project Bread's Child Nutrition Outreach Program (CNOP) is available to assist schools to select and implement Breakfast After the Bell models. Please see contact information on the back side of this flyer.

(Questions continued on back)

I AM STRUGGLING TO GET PRINCIPALS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON BOARD. CAN CNOP HELP ME WITH THIS?

Yes. CNOP has resources to assist with this and, through our Peer to Peer network, can connect your stakeholders with others in districts who have successfully transitioned to Breakfast After the Bell models.

WILL A SCHOOL BE IMPACTED IF IT REACHES 60% FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AT ANY POINT DURING THE YEAR?

No. The requirement is intended to apply to schools that have been previously identified as having a student population of at least 60% free and reduced-price eligible students. DESE has already made the determinations based on previously submitted data.

CAN I IMPLEMENT BREAKFAST IN THE CLASSROOM (BIC) IN JUST ONE CLASSROOM OR GRADE LEVEL AND STILL MEET THE MANDATE?

The intent of the budget language is to offer school breakfast in a way that reaches all students. While selecting BIC for a class or groups of classes is a great way to increase participation for students in those classes, offering another model (such as a robust second chance breakfast) in addition to an isolated rollout of BIC would be a better way to reach all students after the bell and to be in compliance with the requirement.

CAN I EXTEND THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF MY BEFORE THE BELL CAFETERIA MODEL TO BEYOND THE TARDY BELL?

The intent of the budget language is to offer school breakfast in a way that reaches all students. Extending a before the bell model to reach only students that are tardy does not reach all students, is not an effective way to increase participation, and is not in compliance with the spirit of the requirement. The extension should be implemented such that all students can access breakfast after the bell. Please refer to the Second Chance Toolkit for more information on how to implement a robust second chance breakfast model.

IS THIS MANDATE DIFFERENT FROM THE RISE AND SHINE LEGISLATION?

Yes. The current mandate is written in the State FY19 Budget. The Rise and Shine legislation, which was re-filed in the State Legislature in January, if passed, will put in place a state law regarding Breakfast After the Bell. This legislation would include more guidance for implementation and compliance, and would provide longevity beyond the FY19 budget year.

CONTACT US

PROJECT BREAD'S CHILD NUTRITION OUTREACH PROGRAM

PHONE: 617-239-2543

EMAIL: CNOP@PROJECTBREAD.ORG

WEB: WWW.MEALS4KIDS.ORG

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

PHONE: 781-338-6480

EMAIL: NUTRITION@DOE.MASS.EDU

WEB: WWW.DOE.MASS.EDU

