

# An Act to Address Student Hunger with a Breakfast After the Bell Program

## About the bill

LD 809 will reduce childhood hunger in Maine by creating greater access to the school breakfast program, which will in turn increase revenue to the state. The bill requires schools with above 50% free and reduced-price qualifying students to offer an alternative breakfast model after the bell. The bill provides additional funding to schools to aid in the transition.

## Demographics

- **One in four** Maine children lives in a food insecure home.

## The benefits of school breakfast

- School breakfast is associated with higher test scores and better attendance.
- Eating breakfast at school promotes **concentration, alertness, memory, comprehension, and learning.**
- School breakfast gets kids a morning meal when they have not had one at home.
- Eating breakfast in the classroom creates a sense of community.

## Participation

- Only **47%** of all Maine students participate in school breakfast.
- Traditional breakfast before the bell does not provide equal access to the meal and leaves students hungry.
- Alternative breakfast models help increase participation and encourage all students to eat.

## There are three alternative breakfast models:

- **Breakfast in the Classroom** takes place once all students have arrived in their classes. Breakfasts are delivered to classrooms before the start of the day, and kids take them and eat at their desks.
- **The Grab 'n' Go Cart** is stationed in a central location in the school during passing periods or before school. Students quickly grab a breakfast on their way to class.
- **Second Chance Breakfast** takes place after the start of the day, between periods or during a scheduled breakfast break. Students grab breakfast from a cart or from the cafeteria.

## Increasing participation helps the state's economy, too!

- While schools pay production costs to make each meal, they are **reimbursed** about \$1.71 for each breakfast eaten by a student who gets free meals.
- The more students that eat, the more federal reimbursement money the school gets.

## This bill is supported by:



