**Breakfast After the Bell**

**Questions and Answers**

**When does it start?** It became effective February 14, 2020.

**Is this for all schools in the NSLP?** This is for public schools with exceptions by law. Exemptions include: a secondary school limited to grades 9-12; a school with a postponement of the NSLP; and a school already having 70% free and reduced participation at breakfast.

**How do I know if this means schools in my district?** There will be a list posted on Child Nutrition Breakfast web page and Child Nutrition will notify superintendents.

**Is the 70% participation for eligible students or for total participation?** The 70% is free and reduced participation in breakfast.

**Is the 70% by a certain month or year-end participation percent?** We will use the year-end annual percent

**How many extensions can a school get?** Unlimited

**Is the extension by school or district?** This is by school. The law is based on schools.

**What do I need to report health information?** Maine DOE will be using data already collected the first year. Then DOE will reevaluate for future years.

**How is health tracked by school, grade, other?** This is tracked by school.

**What do I need to report for academics?** This is currently unknown. Maine DOE needs to evaluate what we already collect and what may be available.

**Is academics by district, school or grade?** This is by school.

**Where do I find the percent of eligible (≥50%) for the law?** The ED 534 from the prior year will be used.

**Where do I find free and reduced participation percent’s for Breakfast**? This report already exists in NEO. “School Free and Reduced Participation Report – Breakfast” <https://neo.maine.gov/DOE/neo/Nutrition/Reports/NutritionReports.aspx?reportPath=FreeAndReducedbreakfastReport>

**What about unique exceptions such as merging schools, opening new schools, etc.?** This will be handled on a case by case basis by Maine DOE Child Nutrition.

**How is data being collected?** This has not yet been determined. Every effort is being made to use what is already collected.

**If my school is less than 50% but use the alternative breakfast model. Do I need to report**? No, the law states all public schools that are required to participate must report.

**What is deadline to opt out?** There is no deadline, schools should make every effort to meet the law. Ideally the opt out should be completed before new school year starts. We are encouraging by June 30th. That way the opt out is for 2 complete school years.

**What is needed for financial impact year-end reporting**? This has not yet been determined. Child Nutrition will be using the financial information submitted on the monthly claims during the first year and then evaluate if it meets the law completely.

**Can DOE use the financial information already reported monthly to Child Nutrition for financial impact?** This is one area that is being looked at and will be used the first year to get us started.

**How is impact by school or district measured**? The impact will be by district because districts usually do not have schools as cost centers. How and what is to be determined after looking at what is already collected.

**Does alternative delivery system mean I need carts for the classroom?** No, it simply means a second method of obtaining breakfast. Schools need to look at all options and what they may be doing already.

**The bill requires alternative delivery method, what is this?** It means two different methods a student has access to breakfast. The goal is to increase the availability of your program to your customers.

**Does that mean I can not serve breakfast before the bell?** No, the law requires breakfast be offered after the start of school. At a minimum, breakfast must be offered by two methods and at least one after the start of school.

**Can a student get two reimbursable breakfasts?**  The student is eligible for one reimbursable breakfast each day. A second breakfast would be priced accordingly.

**A plan (improvement plan) is needed if there is not a 10% increase. How do I know if my school is required to do a plan?** The school’s superintendent will be notified, and it will be posted on the Child Nutrition web page.

**Is there a required format for the plan?** Child Nutrition will supply a format and sample for schools.

**Is the plan by school or district**. The Plan (improvement plan) is by school, but it can include several schools if it is a district outreach.

**Where can I find the resources and law?** This is posted on the Child Nutrition web site under Breakfast.

**My school is a K-12 School am I exception**? No, the law states if the school is limited to grades 9, 10, 11. And 12 it is exception.

**Is the 10% increase required by school or district?** This is by school.

**Is the 10% increase by a certain month or year-end?** Participation for the year of implementation is based on the remaining months of this school year. In the future, it will be based on the annual free/reduced participation report for the prior school year.

**How is this going to affect my Lunch and FFVP?** Serving meals close together will impact meal participation and the student’s ability to remain focused. Ideally there should be a 3-hour window between breakfast and lunch.

**What do I need to report to DOE to opt out?** The district will need to report schools that opted out and when.

**Does the district need to submit minutes or the financial analysis to DOE?** No, just what schools and the date.

**Does the grant funding exempt 9-12 schools?** Law states schools 50% or greater are eligible for the grant.

**Does the grant funding exempt schools with higher than 70% participation?** Law states schools 50% or greater are eligible for the grant. Once the 70% goal is achieved schools are not exempt from the grant.

**Can you operate an alternative delivery model less than 5 days a week?** No, the law does not offer the option of a part time method. It must be daily on a regular schedule.

**For the 10% increase in participation; is it 10% F/R increase or 10% student body?** The 10% increase is an increase in Breakfast participation from the prior school year. If it is a partial year the relative months will be used to compare the first year.

**If a student eats at regular breakfast service and comes back during 2nd chance breakfast how do we handle it?** The second breakfast becomes an a la carte purchase.

**When are participation comparison and reports based on?** Year-end

**Can this be in place of regular breakfast?** Law states must have an alternative breakfast delivery method and at least one method offered after the bell.

**When do we have to start this?** This became law February 14, 2020. Attempts must be made to comply with the law.

**How serving a late breakfast going to affect the lunch program?** We have heard moving breakfast back in a school that has an early lunch will affect lunch participation. There needs to be adequate time between meal services. The lunch period should be as close to noon as possible.