

# **Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) – Guidance for the School Breakfast Program**

## **Purpose of BIC**

- Ensure all students have access to a nutritious breakfast
- Reduce stigma by integrating breakfast into the school day routine.
- Increase participation in school breakfast, particularly in schools with high rates of free/reduced-price eligible students.

## **Service Models**

- Delivered to Classrooms – Pre-packed (unitized meals, grab-and-go bags, or bulk with reimbursable components) delivered by staff or helpers.
- Grab-and-Go BIC – Students pick up meals from carts or serving lines on their way to class.
- Hybrid Models – Some grades receive meals in classrooms; others in the cafeteria or kiosks.

## **Meal Pattern & Claiming**

- Meals must meet all SBP (School Breakfast Program) meal pattern requirements (milk, fruit/vegetable, grain, meat/meat alternate optional).
- Schools must maintain daily production records and document reimbursable meals.
- Offer vs. Serve (OVS) must be implemented correctly if using unitized meals.
- Students must still be offered a variety of milk and all meals must meet the minimum weekly grain requirements.
- Point of Service (POS): Teachers or designated staff must ensure only one reimbursable meal per student and record POS after the student has all required components.

## **Logistics & Classroom Management**

- Delivery & Set-up: Meals arrive before students; bins/coolers must maintain safe temps ( $\leq 41^{\circ}\text{F}$  cold,  $\geq 140^{\circ}\text{F}$  hot).
- Eating Time: Served during the first 10–15 minutes of class alongside morning routines.
- Waste & Cleanup: Provide trash bins, milk crates, recycling containers; custodial staff remove waste.
- Have a method in place to track unserved meals and dispose of them properly

## **Food Safety & Training**

- All meals must follow HACCP-based food safety plans.
- Staff and teachers must be trained on: meal counting & claiming, food safety, and civil rights requirements.

## **Benefits of BIC**

- Increased participation in the School Breakfast Program.
- Improved academic performance and student behavior due to reduced hunger.
- Positive school climate, as all children begin the day with a meal.
- Reduced stigma compared to cafeteria-only breakfast service.