

Breakfast After The Bell Legislation

Cosponsored by Sen. Sal DiDomenico (SD.1878) and
Reps. Vargas and Vega (HD.3145)



Kids Start the School Day Hungry



Benefits of Breakfast

- Improved dietary intake and better health outcomes
- Improved test scores—one study reports increase by 17.5 percent in math scores
- Lower rates of behavioral issues
- Higher attendance and lower tardiness
- Fewer visits to school nurse
- Destigmatizes school breakfast as a program for low-income students

Benefits of Breakfast After the Bell for Schools and Local Economy

- Helps close the achievement gap.
- Federal reimbursements to high-poverty schools up to \$2.09 for each breakfast meal served. Participation rates of 80 percent or higher could result in approximately \$25 million in reimbursements to schools statewide.
- Creates more full-time school nutrition jobs in school districts.

- 1 in 8 kids in Massachusetts lives in a food-insecure household.
- Nearly 300,000 kids in low-income schools are eligible for free and reduced-price breakfast, but only half participate.
- Hungry kids can't concentrate, have lower academic achievement, suffer cognitive and developmental impairments, exhibit more behavioral problems, are absent more, visit the nurse more often, and are at higher risk of obesity.

Breakfast After the Bell Legislation will:

- ✓ Alleviate childhood hunger by requiring schools with 60 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced-price meals to serve breakfast after the bell.
- ✓ Increase breakfast access to nearly 150,000 kids in more than 600 high-poverty schools across the Commonwealth.
- ✓ Allow schools to implement a Breakfast After the Bell model of their choice, e.g., Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab-and-Go, Second Chance
- ✓ Draw bipartisan support on the national, state, and local level, and in the Commonwealth is being championed by the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts and health, education, agricultural and business organizations statewide.

Learn more about the Breakfast After the Bell legislation and its many benefits at
riseandshinema.org or
email **Catherine Drennan** at The Greater Boston Food Bank at **cdrennan@gbfb.org**



Rise and Shine Massachusetts Coalition Members

Arlington Eats

Barnstable Community Horace Mann Charter
Public School

Berkshire Community Action Council

Children's HealthWatch

Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

City of Medford

Community Servings

Crave Food Services

Democrats for Education Reform

Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts

- Food Bank of Western
Massachusetts
- Merrimack Valley Food Bank
- The Greater Boston Food Bank
- Worcester County Food Bank

FoodCorps

Food For Free

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

Greater Boston Legal Services

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Health Care For All

Health Care Without Harm

Holyoke Public Schools

Let's Talk About Food

Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition and
Dietetics

Massachusetts Action for Healthy Kids

Massachusetts Advocates for Children

Massachusetts Farm to School

Massachusetts Food System Collaborative

Mass Law Reform Institute (MLRI)

Massachusetts Parents United

Massachusetts School Administrators'
Association

Massachusetts Teachers Association

Mayor's Office of Food Access, City of Boston

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Mill City Grows

Poor People's United Fund

Project Bread

Revolution Foods

School Nutrition Association of
Massachusetts

Shape Up Somerville

Share our Strength

South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC)

Springfield Public Schools

Square One

Strategies for Children

Teach Plus

The Open Door

Temple Sinai of Sharon

Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

Western Area Massachusetts Dietetic
Association

Whittier Street Health Center

Worcester Food Policy Council

(List as of January 2019 and actively growing)

If your organization would like to support this anti-hunger legislation,
add your name and voice to our coalition by visiting riseandshinema.org or
email **Catherine Drennan** at The Greater Boston Food Bank at cdrennan@gbfb.org