

# Breakfast After The Bell Legislation

S.2626 is co-sponsored by State Sen. Sal DiDomenico and State Rep. Aaron Vega – Senate vote expected on 7.26.18



## 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](http://riseandshinema.org) or email Catherine Drennan at The Greater Boston Food Bank: [cdrennan@gfbf.org](mailto:cdrennan@gfbf.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 July 2018 and actively growing)