

# LEGISLATORS BRIEFING

## BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL



### HUNGER IN OUR SCHOOLS

Many schools offer a breakfast program, yet these programs are vastly underutilized. The traditional method of serving breakfast before the school day starts can be ineffective, operating before students arrive. Over 175,000 TN students are missing breakfast. **\*\* That's enough children to fill 3,240 school buses.**

### THE OPPORTUNITY

School breakfasts are federally funded but Tennessee is not leveraging this important program, leaving money on the table that could benefit students. If Tennessee reached 70% of children who qualify, they would bring an additional \$7.2 million in federal funding to the state. **\*\*\* If 5,000 additional children participate in the program, it would bring an additional \$1.4 million to Tennessee.**

### SUCCESSFUL BREAKFAST MODELS\*\*

Schools can modernize and increase meal participation by serving breakfast to all students after the school day starts. Implementing **Breakfast after the Bell** program models increases access and overcomes barriers to participation by offering breakfast after the school day starts.

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	PARTICIPATION
Grab and Go	served at students' desks	59% increase
Second Chance Breakfast	served after first period	58% increase
In the Classroom	served as students enter classrooms	88% increase

*Principal, Shelby County Schools*

"Fewer students are coming in late [as a result of BAB] and the culture of the school has changed for the better."

*Principal, Metro Nashville Schools*

"Breakfast After the Bell works so well and takes care of our students' needs. Breakfast in the classroom is so important for students in our school."

### THE BENEFITS

- ✓ Low-cost
- ✓ Convenient
- ✓ Adaptable
- ✓ Improves economy of scale
- ✓ Increases access to breakfast

### EVERY KID NEEDS BREAKFAST

#### INCREASED:

Academic performance, attendance, attention, memory, consumption of fruits & vegetables

#### DECREASED:

Chronic absenteeism, behavioral issues, stigma, visits to school nurse, childhood obesity



### SOURCES

\* Feeding America

\*\* Share Our Strength

\*\*\* Food Research and Action Center