



Bridging the Gap:

Reaching Underserved Students with Breakfast After the Bell

2020 NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BREAKFAST REPORT

Hunger Solutions New York has released its annual statewide report, [Bridging the Gap: Reaching Underserved Students with Breakfast After the Bell](#). The report, which includes state and district-level statistics for New York State's public schools, is based on 2018-19 school year data. The report analyzes school breakfast participation to provide a better understanding of, and potential solutions for, the state's historically stagnant participation in free and reduced-price school breakfast.

Report Highlights Include:

- 1 in 4 students -- of the 1.8 million students who qualify -- ate free or reduced-price school breakfast. While that is an increase from the previous year, the program continues to be underutilized.
- Statewide, only 50% of the free and reduced-price lunch participants also ate breakfast during the 2018-2019 school year. *This means only half of student who should receive free and reduced-price breakfast actually do.*
- Only 14% of New York State public school districts reached the national benchmark for strong school breakfast participation -- where 70% of free and reduced-price lunch participants also ate breakfast.
- This analysis revealed two areas with the greatest potential for growth in participation: secondary schools and 15 high-need school districts.

The School Breakfast Program plays a critical role in reducing child hunger, bolstering student success and improving health. However, the program continues to be underutilized across New York State.

Hunger Solutions New York's new school breakfast report outlines key strategies to improve access and increase school breakfast participation, especially among school districts under the Breakfast After the Bell requirement. The report is designed to empower these schools to move breakfast out of the cafeteria and after the start of the school day to ensure all children have the opportunity to start the school day well nourished and ready to learn.

Help us educate and spread the message about the power of school breakfast. Please share this [report](#) with your networks and on your social channels. Together we can make a difference in making sure more low-income children have access to the nutrition they need for their health and learning.

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