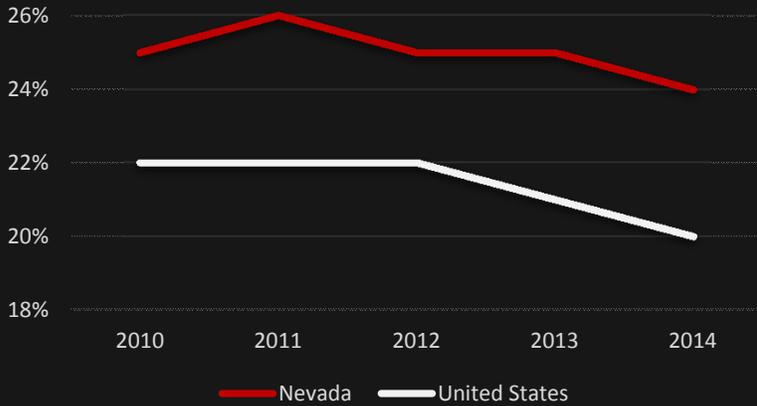


NEVADA KIDS COUNT

BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

Percentage of Children in Food Insecure Households



Source: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5201-children-living-in-households-that-were-food-insecure-at-some-point>

CHILDHOOD FOOD INSECURITY

From 2010-2014, about 160,000 Nevada children, a quarter of the youth population, lived in food insecure households each year (ACEF, 2016). To address this issue, Governor Sandoval signed Senate Bill 503 in June of 2015. The law mandated schools to serve breakfast during the school day if National School Lunch Program (NSLR) eligibility rates were above 70 percent. The program applies to all students at eligible schools, not just those who use NSLR. The program, Breakfast After the Bell, targets children from households where their parents cannot provide them with healthy foods (Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2015).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Schools have adopted various means of supplying their students with breakfasts. Schools can serve students in the classroom during or after first period, provide food in a cafeteria, or provide a grab-and-go option. In general, elementary schools serve their students in classrooms; whereas middle and high schools mostly offer their pupils lunch after first period or the grab-and-go option. The latter options work better with high schools because of the later school start time. Additionally, serving food outside of a classroom reduces the shame some students feel when accepting the NSLR (Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2015).

BENEFITS



MILLIONS IN
FEDERAL GRANTS



HIGHER TEST
SCORES



BETTER DIETS
AMONG CHILDREN



IMPROVED
CLASSROOM
FOCUS

INTENTIONS

Besides reducing food insecurity among children, the policy improves educational outcomes and increases federal funding. A 2013 report from the National Health Institute explored 36 academic articles concerning the effects of habitual breakfast programs. It found that these programs improved both in-class behavior and test scores, with the largest gains occurring in math performance (Adolphus, Lawton, & Dye, 2013). Furthermore, the program intends to bring an additional \$3 million in federal funding to Nevada since federal programs base their grant allocations on breakfast participation rates (Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2015).

NEVADA KIDS COUNT

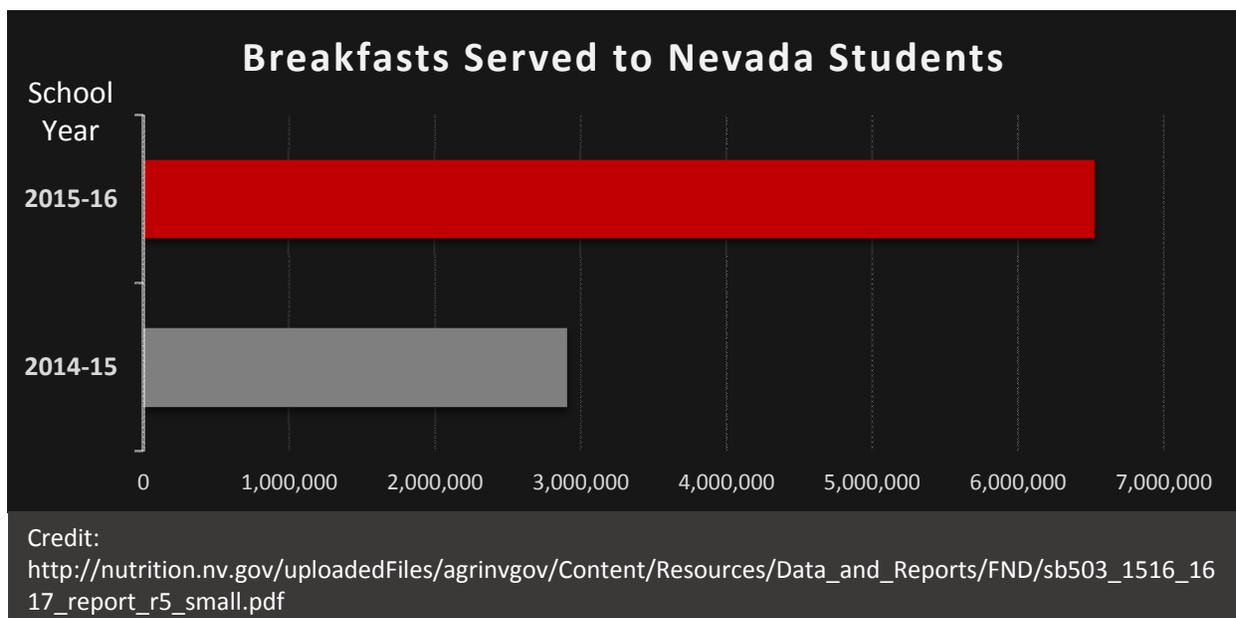
BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

2015-2016 School Year

For this school year, 109 of the 111 eligible schools received \$1 million in grants. These 109 schools represented all eight eligible school districts (Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2016). The bulk of this \$1 million went to Clark County, which received about \$814,000. For comparison, Washoe and Elko Counties received about \$88,000 and \$40,000, respectively. Across Nevada, Breakfast After the Bell served almost 7 million breakfasts to 84,000 students. The policy doubled breakfast participation from 20 percent to 44 percent in qualifying schools compared to the previous school year. Because of this, the federal government granted Nevada an additional \$8 million in funding for its breakfast programs. In other words, every dollar of spending on the program induced \$8 in federal reimbursements. The bill gave schools discretion in how to allocate the funding. About 75 percent of funding went towards personnel, with the remaining quarter going towards supplies (such as utensils and trash bins) and equipment (such as ovens and refrigerators).

2016-2017 School Year

For this school year, the state has received 169 applications for funding, with requests totaling almost \$2.4 million (Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2016). All seven school districts that applied for money received some funding. From August to December of 2016, 98 schools were awarded nearly \$1 million in grants. During this period, about 102,000 students received meals from Breakfast After the Bell for an increase of roughly 18,000 students. Over 90 percent of funding requests concern personnel, indicating a reduced need for supplies and equipment. Eligible schools set participation goals for the 2016-2017 year: 60 percent participation for elementary schools, 40 percent for middle schools, and 35 percent for high schools. As with the previous school year, the bulk of the grants (93 percent) has gone to Clark County. Educators support the program. In a survey of 271 Nevada teachers, two-thirds said that they have seen fewer hungry students as a result of the law (Center for Best Practices, 2017).



NEVADA KIDS COUNT

BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

ACROSS AMERICA

Ten other states, as well as the District of Columbia, have employed similar policies. Colorado's Breakfast After the Bell program moved the state from 20th in school breakfast participation to 11th (Center for Best Practices, 2017). The state saw a 10 percent increase in free and reduced-price breakfast participation after the policy went into effect for the 2014-2015 school year, with participation rising 1.8 percent each subsequent year. In a study of Denver classrooms, the Colorado Department of Education found that the program reduced absences, tardiness, and office referrals. Colorado has seen higher graduation rates and standardized tests scores since the program's implementation. An Illinois Breakfast After the Bell policy served meals to over 175,000 students. In a survey of 500 teachers, over two-thirds indicated that the policy improved student's focus and performance (Center for Best Practices). West Virginia passed a Feed to Achieve bill in 2013. In the subsequent school year, 14.3 percent more low-income students ate breakfast at their schools. As a result, West Virginia leads all states in school breakfast participation. Additionally, the state's graduation rate rose by more than 3 percentage points since the program began (Center for Best Practices).

States with Similar Programs



Credit: mapchart.net, <https://mapchart.net/>

NEVADA KIDS COUNT

BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

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