Illinois School Breakfast Program
By the Numbers

SBP Participation

43

Illinois ranks 43rd out of the 50 states in breakfast participation.

For every 100 Illinois students eligible for Free and Reduced Price meals participating in the National School Lunch Program, 49.7 participated in the School Breakfast Program in 2017-2018, also known as the Average Daily Participation (ADP) ratio. This marked a 4.2% increase from the 2016-2017 school year.

Illinois school districts with 60% or more schools serving "Breakfast after the Bell" were over 2x as likely to have an ADP ratio of 70 or higher.*

Illinois school districts with 60% or more schools serving "Grab and Go" breakfast and "Breakfast in the Classroom" were over 5x as likely to have an ADP ratio of 70 or higher.*

The Food Research and Action Center goal is for all schools to have a breakfast ADP ratio of 70 students participating in breakfast for every 100 participating in lunch. If Illinois met that goal, 167,454 more children would have access to school breakfast, a 40.7% increase, and Illinois would receive an additional $47.8 million in federal funding.

Illinois school districts with 60% or more schools serving "Breakfast after the Bell" and "Breakfast in the Classroom" were over 2x as likely to have an ADP ratio of 70 or higher.*

School breakfast consumption has been associated with improved attendance, reductions in depression and anxiety, and decreased school nurse visits. Additionally, consistent consumption via school breakfast was associated with significant academic achievement and increases in nutrient intake. Innovative breakfast delivery models have been associated with improved attendance and improved math and reading achievement test scores.

Provision of school breakfast has the potential to reduce food insecurity in two ways: first, students that participate guarantee morning food consumption; and second, the school’s role in providing the meal supports parents or caregivers financially to provide food outside of school hours.

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