

FACT SHEET: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SCHOOL MEALS (HB 2760-1) BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL (HB 2765-1)

BACKGROUND

- **Hunger in Oregon remains unacceptably high.** One in five kids lives in a household that faces hunger—that's 173,000 kids across Oregon. That's more than the population of cities like Eugene and Salem. Yet one in three kids that live in a food insecure household doesn't qualify for school meals.
- **Well-nourished kids learn better.** The wellbeing and academic success of our students needs to be a critical priority. We need your support to enact a statewide universal meals program and ensure that "Breakfast After the Bell" is available in high-poverty schools.



LET'S CREATE HUNGER-FREE SCHOOLS IN OREGON

- **HB 2760-1: Universal Access to School Meals.** Makes schools hunger-free by filling federal funding gaps so 761 schools in Oregon (62% of students) with the highest need can offer meals to all kids at no charge (Universal School Meals). For the remaining 484 schools (38% of students), Oregon would provide targeted support to students so eligibility for school meals is consistent with children's health insurance.
- **HB 2765-1: Breakfast After the Bell.** Ensures students have access to breakfast at school. Removes a scheduling barrier for students at schools with the highest rates of poverty by ensuring that breakfast is available after the bell. Schools have the flexibility to use the model that makes sense in each setting.

THESE POLICIES GET RESULTS

- **Increase future potential.** Ensuring kids get healthy food is a critical step on the path out of poverty. This is good for Oregon. When you have stronger, smarter, healthier kids, you have a stronger, smarter, healthier, more economically competitive state.
- **Student Success.** Students who eat breakfast at school attend more days of school, show improvements in test scores, graduate at higher rates, and earn more as adults. This is good for kids. When children consistently get the food they need, they learn more.
- **Reduce stigma.** Universal meals level the playing field for all students. Kids will no longer feel singled out for eating a school meal. They no longer have to choose between hanging out with friends before class or getting their much-needed meal. It's just classmates breaking bread together.
- **Meet the needs of kids and working parents.** In listening circles with parents and students, the idea of universal meals emerged as a key issue. Universal meals take some of the burden off of busy parents and families and can ease the stress of the morning routine of buses, transport, and work schedules.
- **Address the "Benefit Cliff."** Due to the high cost of housing, 37% of kids in Oregon who experience food insecurity are in households that earn too much to qualify for meals at no charge.

173,780

children in Oregon
today live in households
that face hunger.

CONTACT

Matt Newell-Ching, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
503-956-9735 | matt@oregonhunger.org

