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Opportunity

3.2 million low-income students attend traditional K-12 public schools in California. More than 60 percent of these students regularly miss out on the health and academic benefits of school breakfast.

The federal School Breakfast Program fails to reach more students in need because breakfast isn't served when kids are able to eat. **Serving breakfast after the first bell gives more students access to critical nutrition resources, mitigating inequities and supporting academic success.**

Strategically investing in after-the-bell school breakfast programs will help California students learn, grow, and achieve at their fullest potential.

Budget Action











- ➔ Increase state funding for (1) school breakfast meal reimbursements and (2) start-up and expansion grants. Optimize this investment by requiring after-the-bell breakfast in schools with the highest levels of need.

Why This Matters

All children deserve access to essential resources that support health and learning.

Decades of research confirm that school breakfast – and in particular breakfast after the bell – significantly improves academic performance and physical and emotional health.

Breakfast after the bell makes better use of existing federal dollars and helps to address the persistent inequities that put California's low-income students at a disadvantage in school and into adulthood.

IMPROVED	DECREASED
 Cognitive Function	 Risk for Obesity and Diabetes
 Academic Achievement	 Aggressive Behavior
 School Attendance	 Delinquency
 Diet and Physical Health	 Suspensions
 Emotional Health	 Tardiness

For more than 20 years, CFPA has been the state's trusted food policy advocacy organization dedicated to increasing low-income Californians' access to healthy food at home, at school, and throughout entire communities. CFPA's advocacy agenda draws on the anti-hunger, nutrition, and health movements. Working as both a policy leader and supportive policy ally, CFPA continues to build on its long history of success.