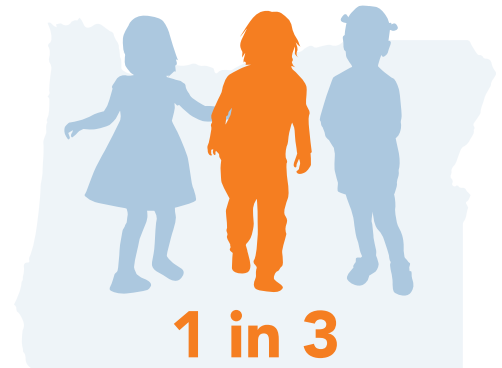


# FACT SHEET: UNIVERSAL MEALS & BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

## 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.



**Kids facing hunger doesn't qualify for free school meals.**

## ABOUT UNIVERSAL MEALS & BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

- **HB 2760: Universal School Meals.** Oregon can become the first state to offer meals to all kids at no charge.
- **HB 2765: Breakfast After the Bell in schools with high-poverty rates.** These schools should ensure that breakfast is available after the bell. We recommend that Oregon allow schools the flexibility using the model that makes sense for them.

## 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.

**173,780**

children in Oregon today live in households that face hunger.

- **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.
- **Eliminate 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.

## CONTACT

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