



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: June 30, 2017
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction
**SUBJECT: Application for State Funding for Alternative Breakfast Service Models
2017-2018**

The fiscal year 2018 state budget provides \$1.074 million in funding to support increasing the number of school breakfast meals served through an alternative service model, referred to as Breakfast after the Bell (BaB), and a traditional service model. Each approved school will receive a state reimbursement of \$0.05 per breakfast meal. These state funds will be awarded to eligible schools through the school division's nutrition program. School divisions must submit the application to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) by August 18, 2017, to receive funding. The application is Attachment A.

The value of these programs has been demonstrated in findings from the 2015-2016 BaB pilot year evaluation. The evaluation showed an increase in attendance and a decrease in tardiness and discipline referrals. Overall, breakfast participation increased 13.6 percent, representing an increase of 1.27 million meals. Participating alternate breakfast model schools served more meals compared to a traditional model. More than 75 percent of principals, teachers and cafeteria managers agreed that more students were eating breakfast and fewer were hungry.

WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVE BREAKFAST SERVICE MODEL?

Alternative breakfast service models use a distribution method different from traditional cafeteria service. Breakfast is more convenient and accessible to students, resulting in increased student participation. Some examples of alternative breakfast service models include: Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC), Grab and Go Breakfast, and Second Chance Breakfast. These models and further resources are detailed in Attachment B.

WHICH SCHOOLS MAY APPLY?

1. Schools currently participating in alternative breakfast service model funding that are interested in continuing their program for school year 2017-18 need to return the application indicating continued commitment to participate. (Section 1 on Attachment A)
2. Elementary schools that are interested in funding and participate in the USDA School Breakfast Program (SBP) with total student free or reduced price meal eligibility of greater than 45 percent, need to return the application indicating participating schools. (Section 2 on Attachment A) Attachment C contains a list of eligible schools.
3. School divisions may also receive this state funding by working to expand participation in the traditional breakfast program. These applications are for any grade level and any free and reduced eligibility percentage; however, schools with free/reduced eligibility greater than 45 percent will be given priority. Plans must include strategies for increasing student breakfast participation. (Section 3 on

Attachment A)

4. Schools must implement the proposed plans for school year 2017-2018.
5. Funding priority will be given to schools implementing an alternative breakfast service model.
6. All breakfast meals served must meet the USDA SBP regulations for reimbursable meals.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

1. School divisions must report the number of breakfast meals served for each school as part of the monthly School Nutrition Program (SNP) Web claim. All claims must be submitted in a timely manner.
2. School divisions that receive state funds for alternative breakfast service models will be required to evaluate the educational impact of the models implemented and submit data to VDOE by June 1, 2018, to be included in the statewide evaluation report. A reporting template will be provided by VDOE to all recipient schools and school divisions in May 2018.
3. Detailed school level data must be submitted to VDOE to be included in the report to the Governor and the General Assembly by August 1, 2018. Data will include:
 - a. Student attendance and tardiness,
 - b. Office discipline referrals,
 - c. Student visits to the school nurse,
 - d. Teacher's responses to the impact of the pilot, and
 - e. The financial impact on the division's school nutrition program.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application (Attachment A) must be completed and submitted by the school division. Applications from individual schools will not be considered.

The application with **original** signatures from the division superintendent and the school nutrition director must be received by the VDOE no later than **5 p.m., Friday, August 18, 2017**, via U.S. Mail or courier. Facsimile or electronic copies of the application will not be accepted. Send the original application by U.S. Mail or courier to:

Virginia Department of Education
Office of School Nutrition Programs, 21st floor
P.O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120

Information on additional grant opportunities from nonprofit organizations to support this initiative is available in Attachment D.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the school nutrition program specialist assigned to the school division.

SRS/scc/ag

Attachments:

- A. [Application for State Funding for Alternative Breakfast Service Models 2017-2018](#) (XLS)
- B. [School Breakfast Resources](#) (PDF)
- C. [Elementary Schools with 45 percent or Greater Free and Reduced Eligibility and Qualified to Apply for 2017-2018 School Year BaB Pilot Funding](#) (PDF)
- D. [Grant Opportunities](#) (PDF)

