



#179-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #179-21**

DATE: July 2, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **2021-2022 Application for Alternative Breakfast Service Models**

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce additional funding opportunities to increase access to and participation in school breakfast. In fiscal year 2022, \$1.074 million in state funds is available to support innovative breakfast service models, collectively known as Breakfast after the Bell (BaB), as a means to increase school breakfast participation. Subject to the availability of funds, each approved elementary school will receive \$0.05 per meal, and each approved middle or high school will receive \$0.10 per meal. These funds must be applied to the nonprofit food service account. Each school division receiving BaB funds must submit a Certification Statement signed by the division superintendent and an application to the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP).

Alternative Breakfast Service Models

Alternative breakfast service models provide meals to students through a distribution method different from traditional meal service, offering opportunities where access would otherwise be limited. When school breakfast is accessible and convenient, breakfast participation increases and the stigma frequently associated with school meals decreases. Some examples of alternative breakfast service models include breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go breakfast, and second chance breakfast.

School Eligibility Criteria

1. Schools participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) School Breakfast Program (SBP) with total student free and reduced-price meal eligibility of 45 percent or greater.
2. Schools implementing an alternative breakfast service model.
3. Schools working to expand participation in the traditional breakfast program. A plan that includes strategies for increasing student breakfast participation must be submitted with the application for these schools to be considered.

Requirements

1. The division superintendent signs the Certification Statement, which is **Attachment A** to this memo. Return the Certification Statement to SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov.
2. Complete an application for the school division and submit to SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov by July 31, 2021. The application is **Attachment B** to this memo. Incomplete applications, applications submitted without the Certification Statement, or applications not submitted to the SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov mailbox will not be considered.
3. Report the number of breakfast meals served for each school as part of the monthly Seamless Summer Option (SSO) SNPWeb claim. All claims must be submitted within the 60 days following the month meals are claimed.
4. Participate in the evaluation of the educational impact of the models implemented and submit the required data to the VDOE-SNP by August 31, 2022. Funded schools that do not provide data are subject to exclusion the following year. A data collection form will be provided by the VDOE-SNP to all recipient schools and school divisions to obtain data from the previous and current school year. Data will include:
 - a. student attendance and tardy arrivals;
 - b. office discipline referrals;
 - c. teachers' and administrators' responses to the impact of the alternative service models; and
 - d. the financial impact of the alternative breakfast models on the division's school nutrition program.

Criteria for Scoring Applications

Applications will be ranked in the following order:

1. Middle and high schools with a total free and reduced-price lunch eligibility of 45 percent and above and implementing an alternative breakfast model.
2. Elementary schools with a total free and reduced-price lunch eligibility of 45 percent and above that did not receive BaB funding in the 2020-2021 school year.
3. Elementary schools with a total free and reduced-price lunch eligibility of 45 percent and above that received funding in the 2020-2021 school year.
4. All schools with a total free and reduced-price lunch eligibility participation below 45 percent providing an alternative breakfast model.
5. All schools with a total free and reduced-price lunch eligibility participation below 45 percent that submit a plan to increase their traditional breakfast model.

Application Process

1. Submit the signed Certification Statement (**Attachment A** to this memo).
2. Complete the application listing all schools, grades served, percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and alternative breakfast models offered. The application is **Attachment B** to this memo.
3. Send the application and the signed Certification Statements to SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov by July 31, 2021. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications that are not submitted to the email address above will also not be considered.
4. Priority will be given to schools with free and reduced-price lunch eligibility of 45 percent and above.
5. The VDOE-SNP will notify schools of their approval by September 6, 2021.

For more information

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Courtney Jones, VDOE-SNP Policy and Research Specialist, via email at Courtney.Jones@doe.virginia.gov or email the SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov mailbox.

JFL/SCC/CEJ/cc

- A. Attachment: [Certification Statement for Breakfast after the Bell](#) (DOCX)
- B. Attachment: [Application for Breakfast after the Bell](#) (DOCX)