

Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ document accompanies the BreakfastFirst webinar on School Breakfast Basics. Additional webinar materials, including the webinar recording, are available [here](http://www.breakfastfirst.org/tools/webinar1.shtml) (<http://www.breakfastfirst.org/tools/webinar1.shtml>).

How do I start improving the school breakfast program in my school community?

- Learn the facts about the breakfast program in your school or district. You can check [here](#) for district-specific data on school breakfast participation and the resulting fiscal impact. You can also speak with your district's nutrition services department to find out which delivery models (e.g. Classroom Breakfast, Second Chance Breakfast, Grab n' Go, conventional breakfast) are being used throughout the district. Ask about the participation rates associated with each model that's being used.
- Identify potential challenges to improving school breakfast. Consider the perspectives of all stakeholders in your school community: teachers, parents, principals, school board members, students, custodial staff, etc. What concerns might these stakeholders have about implementing or changing school breakfast in your district? Prepare yourself to address these concerns.
- Explore these [tools](#) developed by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) for districts to assess challenges and opportunities for improving school breakfast.
- Compile data to show the health, academic, and fiscal benefits of breakfast. Build the case that school breakfast can help feed hungry kids, improve the district's bottom line, improve academic achievement, improve classroom behavior, decrease tardiness, decrease absenteeism, etc. Check out the BreakfastFirst Health and Academics [fact sheet](#) to get started. Use data specific to your school district whenever possible.
- Make the school breakfast pitch to the stakeholders in your school community. Be on the lookout for fellow breakfast champions among these stakeholders. Request an opportunity to speak at meetings where you can address teachers, principals, school board members, parents, district administrators, etc. Use these opportunities to find people who will spread the word to their colleagues and support efforts to improve school breakfast. There is power in numbers!

The USDA assessment tools referenced above can be accessed at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/expansion/assessingpotential.htm>

The health and academics fact sheet referenced above can be accessed at:

<http://www.breakfastfirst.org/pdfs/HealthAndAcademicBenefits.pdf>

The district data referenced above can be accessed at:

http://www.breakfastfirst.org/pdfs/DistrictData_3-21-11.pdf

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Why is Provision 2 important? How is Provision 2 implemented?

The Provision 2 option (P2) reduces the school meal application burden on families and simplifies administrative procedures for school districts. Schools or districts that use P2 offer meals free of charge to all students.

To implement P2, schools/districts determine student eligibility for free and reduced price meals during a base year. The eligibility established within that base year sets claiming percentages for the next four years. For instance:

- During the base year for School A, 65% of students were determined eligible for free meals, 15% for reduced-price meals, and 20% for paid meals.
- Throughout the next four years, School A will track the total number of school meals served. School A will receive the free rate of reimbursement for 65% of the meals served, the reduced price rate of reimbursement for 15% of meals served, and the paid rate of reimbursement for 20% of meals served.

Because meals are offered free of charge to all students, P2 is fiscally feasible for school or districts with relatively high percentages of students (approximately 75% or more) who are eligible for free and reduced price (FRP) meals. Schools with lower percentages (approximately 60%) of students eligible for FRP meals have successfully implemented P2 just for school breakfast.

Because schools using P2 need only to track the number of meals served for the purposes of claiming reimbursement, schools may be able to eliminate the use of PIN numbers, meal tickets, and ID cards at the points of service. School districts may also experience administrative savings from reduced labor costs associated with the collection, tracking, and recording of meal applications, eligibility status, the number of meals served per reimbursement category, meal payments, etc.

For more information, visit the USDA's Provision 2 [web page](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/prov-1-2-3/provision1_2_3.htm) (http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/prov-1-2-3/provision1_2_3.htm).

How can I positively engage the teachers union in my school district?

Start early! Attempt to engage teachers and the local teachers association while you plan for new or improved school breakfast programs. Solicit teachers' feedback about school breakfast and work to address their concerns. Seek out teachers who support school breakfast

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and the changes you want to make. Ask these supporters to help establish buy-in from their peers.

Teachers understand the importance of breakfast for their students. Be sure teachers know how school breakfast can also benefit them! For example:

- Many teachers use their own money to provide snacks for hungry students in their classrooms. An effective school breakfast program eliminates the need for teachers to purchase food out-of-pocket for their students.
- Effective school breakfast programs can improve classroom behavior as well as decrease tardiness, absenteeism, and time students spend outside of class due to hunger-related symptoms like headache and stomachache.
- Effective school breakfast programs can bolster school district budgets. Check out the BreakfastFirst Fiscal Benefits [fact sheet](#) for more information.
- Consider offering teachers a free breakfast when their students are served. This small effort can go a long way.

Arrange a teacher visit to a school that operates a successful breakfast program. A picture is worth 1,000 words and a first-hand observation is worth many more. If you are not able to arrange a visit, share this [video](#) that shows two successful breakfast models: Classroom Breakfast and Second Chance/Grab n' Go.

Share school breakfast resources with teachers. Many materials are available at www.BreakfastFirst.org. Additionally, the anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength recently conducted a nationwide survey of teachers about hunger in the classroom. A corresponding report and toolkit for teachers are available [here](#).

The fiscal benefits fact sheet referenced above can be accessed at:
<http://www.breakfastfirst.org/pdfs/FiscalFactSheet.pdf>

The video referenced above can also be accessed at:
<http://www.breakfastfirst.org/classroom/EverybodyEats.html>

The Share Our Strength report and toolkit referenced above can be accessed at:
<http://www.strength.org/teachers/>

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Have additional questions?

Please visit www.BreakfastFirst.org or contact the BreakfastFirst Team:

- Bay Area and Northern California - Tia Shimada (tia@cfpa.net) and Markell Lewis (markell@cfpa.net)
- Central Valley and Central Coast - Ellen Braff-Guajardo (ellen@cfpa.net)
- Southern California - Nicola Edwards (nicola@cfpa.net)