

## **Fast Facts: Alaska's School Lunch Program**

### **Alaskan Children In Need:**

- One out of every 8 Alaska families struggles to put enough food on the table.[\[USDA\]](#)
- According to Hunger in America 2010, 74,000 Alaskans seek food assistance each year. The study also showed that 43% of households visiting food pantries in Alaska have a child under the age of 18. [\[Hunger In America\]](#)
- An estimated 42% of Alaska students, more than 51,000 children, are eligible for free or reduced cost school meals.

### **School Meals Programs In Need**

- Alaska is one of only twelve states in the country that does not have any state legislative support for their school meals programs. [Alaska Food Coalition Hunger Data]
- Currently, the federal funds the majority of the school meal program at \$32 million. That still leaves Alaska schools with a \$25 shortfall. [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development]
- In Alaska, the school lunch program feeds over 36,000 students at a free/reduced rate for lunch. School breakfast participation is over 18,000 with 14,000 of those being free/reduced price. [\[FRAC scorecard\]](#)
- Currently in Alaska, twenty percent (20%) of schools participating in the school lunch program do not offer school breakfast, impacting 22,253 Alaskan children, 6,850 of whom are children from low income families who qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- For many children, these are the only nutritious meals they will get on a regular basis.

### **Alaska Missing Out On \$1.9 Million**

- Alaska is in the bottom 10 states for lowest participation in the School Breakfast Program in the nation.
- Our state is not taking advantage of a large amount of potential federal funding that would come to the state on a per-meal basis.
- If Alaska lifted breakfast participation from 38.3% to 60%, the state would receive an additional \$1.9 million in federal funds.
- That would entail feeding approximately 8,006 additional free and reduced-price students.[\[FRAC scorecard\]](#)