

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

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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

- The school meal program costs the schools **\$58 million in output**. Currently, the federal government funds the majority of the school meal program **at \$32.5 million**. Alaska students pay approximately **\$23.4 million**, leaving our schools with **at least a \$2.1 million shortfall**.
- 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]
- 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.
- There are **six school districts educating 927 students** in Alaska that do not offer the lunch program or the school breakfast program.
- 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**.
- Raising the rate to 60% would entail feeding approximately 8,006 additional free and reduced-price students.[\[FRAC scorecard\]](#)