



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 25, 2019

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Idaho kids will get Breakfast After the Bell, thanks to grant from No Kid Hungry

(BOISE) – A new pilot program will provide children in two Idaho elementary schools nutritious breakfasts at the start of their school day via a grant to the State Department of Education.

“I’m delighted that Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry selected our state as one of only five in the nation for this important pilot program,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “As a longtime Idaho schoolteacher, I’ve seen firsthand how nutritious breakfasts spark students’ energy, ability to concentrate and overall success.”

Statistics show that children in Idaho and across the nation are underserved by breakfast programs. In the 2018 school year, Idaho children eligible for free and reduced price meals were served more than 15 million lunches but only 8.6 million breakfasts at schools that serve both meals, said Dr. Colleen Asumendi Fillmore, director of Child Nutrition Programs for the SDE. That aligns with national figures from the School Breakfast Report Card, which shows about 57 percent of students who receive free and reduced lunch also receive breakfast.

The Breakfast After the Bell program aims to make nutritious morning meals available to many children who, for various reasons, do not participate in before-school meal programs. [No Kid Hungry](http://NoKidHungry.org) is a public-private coalition working to end childhood hunger in partnership with Idaho’s State Department of Education and other grantees.



Idaho’s \$36,000 grant will be divided evenly between two pilot sites – Shadow Butte Elementary School in the Emmett School District and Ustick Elementary in the West Ada School District. Administrative costs will be absorbed by the State Department of Education’s Child Nutrition Program.

Idaho’s pilot Breakfast After the Bell program will commence during the coming school year, and the details of meal delivery will be tailored by participating schools to meet the needs of their student body.

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