



CALIFORNIA

Statement: California Budget Will Help Bring Breakfast To More Kids

"This budget will help more children in California start the school day ready to learn," says Saile.

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06/13/19, SACRAMENTO – The California legislature today announced the restoration of \$500,000 in funding for grants supporting Breakfast After the Bell, the program that brings school breakfast to more of the students who need it. The following is a statement from Kathy Saile, Director of the No Kid Hungry campaign in California:

No Kid Hungry would like to thank the California state legislature for the restoration of state grants to support Breakfast After the Bell in the 2019-2020 budget. Thanks to the leadership from Senator Holly Mitchell and Assemblymember Phil Ting, this renewed commitment will help continue the significant progress California has made in connecting more students with school breakfast. We now urge Governor Newsom to finalize this with his signature.

One in 5 children in California lives in a family that struggles with hunger. School breakfast is one of the most effective tools we have in the fight against childhood hunger. Too often, however, this breakfast doesn't reach the students who need it. In schools where breakfast is still served in the cafeteria, before the school day begins, the program is severely underutilized.

Serving it after the bell, as a natural part of the school day, has become an essential tool in building greater equity among students, the most inclusive way to ensure that all students are starting the day ready to learn, regardless of family income.

The last time California funded this important grant program, 160 school sites enrolling more than 115,600 students implemented Breakfast After the Bell programs in a single year. Today, there is still more work to be done, but restoring this funding will help even more schools and students benefit from school breakfast.

In the coming months, No Kid Hungry is looking forward to working with the governor, the legislature and others across the state to make sure students get the breakfast they need to focus, learn, and grow up strong.

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About No Kid Hungry

No child should go hungry in America. But 1 in 6 kids will face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger through effective programs that provide kids with the food they need. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization working to end hunger and poverty. Join us at NoKidHungry.org.