

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting September 10, 2013

Universal Breakfast

Board Goal: VI. Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility

Purpose of Report

SB 376 was signed into law on May 24, 2013. This bill requires Universal Free Breakfast to be served to all students on campuses with 80% or greater low income households. Implementation is required to begin in the 2014-2015 school year.

Objectives

- To provide a free breakfast meal to all students, regardless of eligibility, on campuses with 80% or more students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
- To ensure that breakfast meals meet all the guidelines under the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act.
- To deliver meals in a cost effective manner and with the least amount of impact on instructional staff.

Operational Impact

For all Universal Breakfast free meals served, Child Nutrition will only be able to collect reimbursement based on each student's eligibility. For school year 2013-2014, the federal reimbursement rates for breakfast are:

Paid - \$.28

Reduced - \$1.28

Free - \$1.58

Severe Need – both reduced and free eligibilities are entitled to an additional \$.31 per meal; all campuses with 80% or greater free or reduced eligibility qualify for severe need reimbursement.

Results

Universal Free Breakfast will be required on campuses with 80% or more low income students. The ultimate objectives with the program will be to provide free breakfast meals that are nutritious, popular with students, in compliance with all regulatory guidelines, cost effective, and delivered in a manner that least disrupts regular school operations.

Other Options

Campuses that do not wish to provide breakfast meals at no cost to all students must vote to opt out of the requirement at a board of trustees meeting. Based on the voting outcome, schools may request a waiver from the Texas Department of Agriculture. This process must be followed annually; waivers granted will be valid for one year.