

Ellis Elementary School has participated in Breakfast in the Classroom for the last three school years. During that time, we have seen a decrease in tardiness and an increase in student class participation.

Many of our students do not get breakfast at home in the morning (94% of our students qualify for free or reduced price lunch). Therefore, receiving breakfast as they walk through the door to begin their school day has been essential to their alertness and ability to learn. Students who were habitually tardy now arrive on time to ensure they get their breakfast! Teachers have breakfast with their students, creating a relaxed, happy start to the day, when students go through morning rituals and routines (such as attendance and lunch count) while enjoying breakfast with their teacher.

Here's some data:

- Participation rate prior to Breakfast After the Bell: 18-20%
- Participation rate with Breakfast in the Classroom: 98-100%
- Attendance has improved from 91.5% to 95%
- Other noticeable improvements (anecdotal): behavior changes, reduced tardiness, more focus and classroom participation

Teachers, students, and parents like Breakfast in the Classroom. Our school believes that this program has been a huge factor in student growth and classroom success. Students who break bread together are much less likely to argue with each other.

Ellis Elementary hopes to retain this program for many years to come.

Khoa Nguyen

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