

Report to the Legislature on: School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs

MGL Chapter 15 section 1G(f) and Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007 line item 7053-1925 February 2008



This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Education Jeffrey Nellhaus Acting Commissioner of Education

Board of Education Members

Mr. Paul Reville, Chairman, Worcester
Ms. Ann Reale, Vice-Chair, Commissioner, Early Education and Care, Boston
Mr. Christopher Anderson, Westford
Ms. Harneen Chernow, Jamaica Plain
Dr. Thomas E. Fortmann, Lexington
Ms. Ruth Kaplan, Brookline
Dr. Patricia Plummer, Chancellor, Higher Education, Boston
Dr. Sandra L. Stotsky, Brookline
Mr. Zachary Tsetsos, Chair, Student Advisory Council, Oxford
Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner
and Secretary to the Board

The Massachusetts Department of Education, an affirmative action employer, is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

Inquiries regarding the Department's compliance with Title IX and other civil rights laws may be directed to the Human Resources Director, 350 Main St., Malden, MA 02148 781-338-6105.

© 2008 Massachusetts Department of Education

Permission is hereby granted to copy any or all parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes. Please credit the "Massachusetts Department of Education."

This document printed on recycled paper

Massachusetts Department of Education 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5023 Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370 www.doe.mass.edu





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Jeffrey Nellhaus Acting Commissioner of Education

February 2008

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit this report to the Legislature: *School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Program*, pursuant to Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007 line item 7053-1925 and MGL chapter 15 section 1G(f). An Act establishing school-based Nutrition and Child Hunger Relief Programs was signed into law on January 14, 1993 and directs the Department of Education to establish a School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Outreach Program. Its overall goal is to increase participation in both programs, with emphasis on increasing the participation of needy children.

Throughout the year, Department staff noted increased inquiries on the School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs. With the outreach coordinators at Project Bread, we worked together with school district staff to expand and improve current programs and implement new programs to address the childhood hunger issue in Massachusetts. The Child Nutrition Outreach Program continued to build on past years' strategies and implement new initiatives. The Department broadened outreach to parents and principals, worked towards better school nutrition, evaluated several school breakfast programs, and encouraged schools to move breakfast into the classroom.

During the 2006-2007 school year, the Department provided funding for the Universal School Breakfast Program to 36 school districts, providing a nutritious breakfast to more than 134,000 Massachusetts children in 272 schools. This is an increase of 24 schools from the previous year. Universal Breakfast funds were used to provide breakfast to all children in schools with a high percentage of students eligible for free or reduce priced school meals. The schools developed partnerships among administrators, food service personnel and other school staff to make school breakfast a regular part of the school day. School administrators and teachers comment that since the inclusion of breakfast, student achievement has increased, students are making fewer visits to the nurse, and absenteeism is down.

In 2007, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program doubled the number of communities participating in Project Bread's newly titled "Locally Grown Foods Project." The project, in which summer sponsors purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables for Summer Food Service Program meals, has proven a great success. The Department and Project Bread work with the Massachusetts Farm to School Project to connect summer

meal providers with local farmers. Most of the programs that participated last summer continued purchasing fresh produce for school meals throughout the fall. This year, six additional communities (Barnstable, Gloucester, Greenfield, Pittsfield, Plymouth, and Quincy) will participate in the Locally Grown Foods Project bringing the total number of participating communities to 12. In a collaborative effort, a book has been developed to assist in the purchase, preparation and service of fruits and vegetables, highlighting Massachusetts' agricultural products.

Similar to the Department's efforts to improve the nutritional content of meals served during the school year, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program created nutritional guidelines for food served as part of the Summer Food Service Program. This project, the Better Summer Meals Initiative, was piloted in Barnstable, Fitchburg, Gloucester, Greenfield, and Worcester. The menus at these sites feature two fruit and/or vegetable servings, skim or 1 percent milk, and high fiber bread. Sponsors for these sites will also be required to eliminate products containing trans fat and limit cookies, pies, cakes, brownies, doughnuts, croissants, pastries and ice cream/frozen desserts to one time per week or fewer. The outreach program is completing the evaluation of this program to assess participant taste preferences and meal satisfaction, waste, and the financial impact, if any, of implementing the guidelines. In FY08, we will explore the availability of information regarding the preparation of culturally appropriate meals for Summer Food Service Program sites.

For summer programs, the key is the link to community-based activities and the comprehensive operation of these summer sites. Incorporating marketing, presentation, locally grown produce and nutrient standards have improved the food service location operation and encouraged sustained participation. In more programs, nutrition education information and knowledge has been integrated into the summer day. Providing outreach coordinator job descriptions for local programs has provided an increase in sites as well as expanded the community involvement in summer programs. The availability of grant opportunities for these programs has allowed for the development of effective strategies to improve nutrition programs, outreach and accessibility. The Commonwealth's support of these programs contributed greatly to the ability to reach needy children.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Nellhaus Acting Commissioner

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1: Introduction – Design of Outreach	1-2
Part 2: Discussion of School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs School Breakfast Program Summer Food Service Program	3-7
Part 3: Statistical Information	8-9
Part 4: Summary	10
Appendix A: Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007 line item 7053-1925	11
Appendix B: Massachusetts General Law chapter 15 section 1G(f)	12

Part 1: Introduction – Design of Outreach Program

Pursuant to Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007, section 2, line item 7053-1925 and MGL chapter 15 section 1G(f) the Department of Education respectfully submits this report addressing the following:

Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007, line item 7053-1925

"7053-1925.. For the school breakfast program for public and nonpublic schools and for grants to improve summer food programs during the summer school vacation period; ... provided further, that within the summer food program, priority shall be given to extending such programs for the full summer vacation period and promoting increased participation in such programs... provided further, that not less than \$2,011,060 shall be expended for the universal school breakfast program whereby all children in schools receiving funds under the program shall be provided free, nutritious breakfasts at no cost to them; provided further, that subject to regulations of the board that specify time and learning standards, breakfasts shall be served during regular school hours; provided further, that participation shall be limited to those elementary schools mandated to serve breakfast under section 1C of chapter 69 of the General Laws where 60 per cent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the federally-funded school meals program; provided further, that the department shall select school sites for programs authorized by this item not later than November 15, 2007, and shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means on the preliminary results of these grants not later than January 9, 2008"

GL chapter 15 section 1G(f)

"...The report shall include, but not be limited to: the percentage of eligible children participating in school breakfast programs statewide during the previous school year; the amount of additional federal dollars brought into the state by all school breakfast and summer food service outreach program activities; the number of additional school breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs started in the preceding year; and the increase in participation in summer food services and school breakfast programs.

Background

An Act establishing school-based Nutrition and Child Hunger Relief Programs was signed into law on January 14, 1993. This law, Chapter 414, Acts of 1992, directs the Massachusetts Department of Education to establish a School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Outreach Program. Its overall goal is to increase participation in both programs, with stated emphasis on increasing the participation of needy children. The Department, in keeping with the mandate, established the following objectives in 2006-2007.

- 1. Improve marketing strategies to increase participation in the School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Outreach Programs.
- 2. Promote the program as a valuable resource for all children, families, schools, and communities, including homeless and migrant families.
- 3. Increase the number of children who participate in the Universal Breakfast Program by promoting breakfast during the school day.
- 4. Work with meal providers to offer more nutritious and appetizing meals.
- 5. Recognize individuals that have been instrumental in the progress that has been made, including food service directors and administrators.

- 6. Assist school districts and appropriate organizations in sponsoring and expanding the programs.
- 7. Increase the involvement of superintendents, principals, and other local administrative and advocate groups in promoting and supporting school breakfast as an essential part of the school day, and the Summer Food Service Outreach Program as a community resource.
- 8. Develop creative strategies to remove barriers to program participation.
- 9. Review and improve current outreach materials, incorporating the use of technology.
- 10. Ensure that all activities and efforts are culturally sensitive to linguistic minorities.

During the 2006-2007 school year, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program (CNOP) continued to promote the School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Outreach Programs by building on past years' strategies and implementing new initiatives. The Department broadened outreach to parents and principals, worked towards better school nutrition, evaluated several school breakfast programs, and encouraged schools to move breakfast into the classroom.

This year, the Department redesigned our website, www.meals4kids.org, and our school breakfast parent brochure to reflect the new look and feel of the Child Nutrition Outreach Program. Meals4kids.org now features easier navigation, more information and resources, a variety of downloadable materials, and a virtual 'store' where visitors can order our printed school breakfast, Summer Food Service Program, and nutrition materials. In addition to the multitude of orders received from individuals throughout Massachusetts, the Department received numerous national and international requests for materials. Also designed and distributed were two informative and useful toolkits: one to help food service directors implement the Better Breakfast Initiative and the other to introduce new sponsors to the Summer Food Service Program. For Food service directors and school administrators, a Universal Breakfast Calculator was created that can assess the potential impact of offering universal free breakfast at eligible schools as well as a School Breakfast Fact Sheet which explains various financial aspects of the School Breakfast Program. Additionally, the Department further refined and expanded upon programs initiated over the past few years, including the Locally Grown Foods Project, Better Breakfast, and Better Summer Meals Initiatives.

The Department also continued its contractual relationship with Project Bread – The Walk for Hunger, Inc., to assist in conducting its outreach efforts for 2006-2007.

Part 2: Discussion of School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Outreach Programs

School Breakfast Program

During the 2006-2007 school year, the Department provided funding for the Universal School Breakfast Program to 36 school districts, providing a nutritious breakfast to more than 134,000 Massachusetts children in 272 schools. This is an increase of 24 schools from the previous year. Universal Breakfast funds were used to provide breakfast to all children in schools with a high percentage of students eligible for free or reduce priced school meals. The schools developed partnerships among administrators, food service personnel and other school staff to make school breakfast a regular part of the school day. School administrators and teachers comment that since the inclusion of breakfast, student achievement has increased, students are making fewer visits to the nurse, and absenteeism is down.

The Department believes that breakfast in the classroom, after the bell, remains the simplest way to maximize participation in school breakfast and ensure that all students start the day ready to learn. Many other schools continue to promote the breakfast program and its benefits through breakfast coordinators, promotions and outreach letters and flyers.

Massachusetts school districts received increased federal severe need reimbursement from \$23.4 million in FY06 to \$25.6 million in FY07. Regular federal breakfast program reimbursements increased from \$27.1 million in FY06 to \$29.3 million in FY07. Managing costs for breakfasts to support high nutrient dense foods and address increased food costs overall continue to be a challenge. The breakfast cost calculator and financial fact sheets for the School Breakfast The Department of Education's Child Nutrition Outreach Program (CNOP) based at Project Bread provides ongoing support to food service directors in low-income communities through regular communication, bi-monthly Breakfast Brainstorm newsletters, and suggestions for increasing breakfast participation. Program on the outreach website www.meals4kids.org assist districts in calculating and managing program costs.

School Breakfast Outreach

Food Service Director Outreach

The Breakfast Brainstorm, which is available online, has helped districts share effective strategies, develop outreach activities and provide information on current trends and regulations. At the beginning of the school year, the outreach program reminded school food service directors to directly certify all categorically eligible students for free meals by using the security portal on the Department's website. The Child Nutrition Access Project has been implemented statewide, providing many districts with increased access to the programs. Using the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)'s list of families eligible for food stamps, the Department has expanded its list of students eligible for free and reduced lunch. The name match for school year 2006-2007 was 79 percent of the names received from DTA. Those names not matched were returned to DTA, where letters were then sent to households. Outreach staff assisted food service directors

in accessing these DTA lists from the Security Portal on the Department's website for direct certification.

In addition to work with food service directors, the Department developed materials to be used for all target audiences within the school and local community. An outreach kit has been created with materials designed for distribution and information to teachers, parents, school administrators, school nurses, local media and students. All materials build on the campaign and are available electronically. They are designed for the district to customize the information for the district's program. Several targeted districts have used the documents, which are available in several translations to reach the diverse populations served by the nutrition program. In FY08, the Department will expand upon the *How to Start a School Breakfast Program* document to include a section on how to implement breakfast in the classroom and grab-and-go breakfast.

Parent Outreach

The Department's parent outreach was designed to heighten parental awareness about the School Breakfast Program, gather information about the barriers to breakfast participation, and enlist parental support to increase student participation. The Child Nutrition Outreach Program mailed program information to Boston, Worcester, Lowell, Lynn, Springfield, Fall River and Lawrence for distribution to parents. Resource centers in 16 districts received and distributed the formation in multiple languages to parents during the student registration process. In the spring of 2007, the Department collaborated with the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) on a mailing to 75,415 DTA clients regarding their children's eligibility for free school meals. The letters also included a community-specific list of schools that serve breakfast. Next year's plan is to enhance this mailing by including more information about the School Breakfast Program. Recognizing that parents obtain information through a variety of media sources, the outreach program produced and distributed informational videotapes about the School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs to 26 cable access stations around the state. A public service announcement (PSA) highlighting the importance of school breakfast was created and sent it to radio stations across Massachusetts.

School Administration and Student Outreach

Outreach to principals was similarly varied. The outreach program continued its collaboration with Project Bread's Massachusetts Child Hunger Initiative to encourage principals within the target communities to make breakfast a regular part of the school day. As a result of these efforts, this initiative granted \$6,000 in School Breakfast Excellence Awards to six principals in Everett, Revere, Fall River, Greenfield, and Worcester whose schools achieved 80 percent breakfast participation for two consecutive months by serving breakfast in the classroom or grab-and-go breakfasts. The Child Hunger Initiative also provided start up grants to schools in Lowell, West Springfield, and Worcester totaling \$4,250 to help them implement breakfast in the classroom.

During the course of the year, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program sent one mailing and two e-alerts to over 1,500 principals throughout the state to increase awareness about the School Breakfast Program. These mailings/e-alerts promoted school breakfast as a tool for alleviating hunger, increasing academic and MCAS performance, and improving classroom behavior. Staff also met with superintendents in Salem, West Springfield,

Everett, Brockton, and Malden to encourage increased participation in the School Breakfast Program.

School Nutrition Improvements

In FY07, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program continued the work to improve the nutritional quality of school breakfast by expanding the Better Breakfast Initiative begun in FY05. After analyzing the results of the pilot communities (Southbridge, Lawrence, Revere and Orange), the guidelines were modified and enhanced with assistance from the Harvard School of Public Health and the Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. Chicopee was added as a fifth community and held a parent breakfast event at Chicopee's Stefanik School that was attended by 340 parents and students as well as the mayor and superintendent. On a larger scale a Better Breakfast Initiative Tool Kit was created to promote the initiative. This tool kit provides product, recipe, and menu ideas as well as a disk with customizable promotional materials to help food service directors implement the Better Breakfast Initiative autonomously. Staff presented the tool kit at the Department's "Leading Yourself and Others to Excellence in Challenging Times" conference in June and also provided it to all food service directors in the state. This year, 86 orders for our Marketing Healthy Foods Tool Kit were filled.

The Department has begun to receive numerous requests from food service directors for nutrition information to distribute to students and parents. To satisfy these requests, the Department will review the USDA's Team Nutrition materials to identify items that would be appropriate for this purpose.

The Child Nutrition Outreach website, www.meals4kids.org, continued to feature several additional outreach materials this year including electronic versions of our School Breakfast Jump Start Kit, Food for Thought Curriculum and Marketing Healthy Foods Toolkit in addition to several other resource tools. This website provides basic information about the School Breakfast Program, as well as access to outreach materials, resources and ideas to assist members of the community in increasing participation in their programs.

Summer Food Service Program

During FY07, the Department held the annual Summer Food Service Program kickoff event in February with over 45 sponsors and vendors in attendance. This year, a session on effective ways to use expansion grants was included and featured the success stories of Mary Joan McLarney, Somerville Public Schools Food Services, and Anne Marie Stronach and Gary Watts, Lawrence Public Schools Food Services. Penny Weaver from USDA's Food and Nutrition Services and outreach staff provided useful and creative ideas for Summer Food Service Program outreach and advertising. Finally, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program provided a tutorial on how to use GIS maps for identifying area eligible Summer Food Service Program sites.

Site and Sponsor Outreach

In February, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program sent postcards to over 2,500 agencies in eligible communities to inform them of the Summer Food Service Program and solicit their involvement. The Department also worked closely with the Massachusetts Child

Hunger Initiative staff to expand existing summer meal sites, secure new sites, and identify potential sponsors. Outreach program staff met with community leaders and local organizations at several Hunger Forums and Summer Food Service Program planning meetings in Cambridge, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Salem, Somerville, Taunton, and Westfield to identify unmet needs and strategize for the upcoming summer. In an effort to increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program, the Department collaborated with the hunger initiative to solicit, review, and award Summer Food Service Program incentive grants to sponsors and sites that started a new program, provided an additional meal, implemented the Better Summer Meals Initiative, or participated in the Locally Grown Foods Project. Over \$260,000 was granted to 55 sites and sponsors in 27 different communities. Staff will collaborate and visit many grant recipient sites this summer.

This year, a Summer Food Service Program Sponsor Tool Kit was also created that includes information on Summer Food Service Program administration, vending options and procedures, and reimbursement. The toolkit also features a disk with customizable outreach materials that sponsors can use to promote their programs. Over 60 toolkits were distributed to current and potential sponsors.

Community Outreach

Despite the longevity of the Summer Food Service Program in Massachusetts, many families still report that they are unaware of the program. In April, principals were provided several tools to promote the Summer Food Service Program among parents and students. The tools included a sample letter to parents about the Summer Food Service Program, a sample tear-off flyer, and an order form to request pads of Summer Food Service Program tear-off flyers for their students. Of the 726 principals who received the mailing, 65 of them requested a total of 26,950 tear-off flyers.

This year, Summer Food Service Program material order forms were sent to more than 2,700 faith based organizations, town governments, and social service agencies. Orders for posters, door hangers, and Summer Food Service Program tear-off pads in English and Spanish totaled nearly 10,000 materials. This year, the Department also expanded our Summer Food Service Program outreach to include 41 housing authority agencies throughout the state, which resulted in orders for 240 additional materials.

In an effort to deliver summer promotional materials in advance of the program's start, the Summer Food Service Program posters were modified to include only the community name, not a list of specific sites as done in past years. These posters were distributed with tear-off flyers and door hangers to agencies in late May. Once the official site lists were received from the Department, 8 ½" x 11" double-sided flyers were created with the site lists on one side and information about the Summer Food Service Program in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole on the back.

The Child Nutrition Outreach Program also distributed nearly 13,000 incentives to 51 Summer Food Service Program sponsors for attracting kids to 578 open sites throughout Massachusetts. The incentives included nutrition activity books and other related activity items for summer program site support. Finally, the outreach program worked with the

Department of Transitional Assistance to send community-specific meal site information to their clients.

Special Projects

In 2007, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program doubled the number of communities participating in Project Bread's newly titled "Locally Grown Foods Project." The project, in which summer sponsors purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables for Summer Food Service Program meals, has proven a great success. The Department and Project Bread work with the Massachusetts Farm to School Project, headed by Kelly Erwin, to connect summer meal providers with local farmers. Project Bread provides seed money for one summer only to cover the cost of produce delivery. This year, Project Bread's hunger initiative also offered funds to participating sponsors and vendors to purchase food preparation equipment or outreach materials. This start-up money has successfully enabled the program to become self-sustaining in subsequent years. Most of the programs that participated last summer continued purchasing fresh produce for school meals throughout the fall. This year, six additional communities (Barnstable, Gloucester, Greenfield, Pittsfield, Plymouth, and Quincy) will participate in the Locally Grown Foods Project bringing the total number of participating communities to 12. In a collaborative effort, a book has been developed to assist in the purchase, preparation and service of fruits and vegetables, highlighting Massachusetts' agricultural products.

Similar to the Department's efforts to improve the nutritional content of meals served during the school year, the Child Nutrition Outreach Program created nutritional guidelines for food served as part of the Summer Food Service Program. This project, entitled the Better Summer Meals Initiative, was piloted this summer in Barnstable, Fitchburg, Gloucester, Greenfield, and Worcester. The menus at these sites will feature two fruit and/or vegetable servings, skim or 1 percent milk, and high fiber bread. Sponsors for these sites will also be required to eliminate products containing trans fat and limit cookies, pies, cakes, brownies, donuts, croissants, pastries and ice cream/frozen desserts to one time per week or fewer. The outreach program is completing the evaluation of this program to assess participant taste preferences and meal satisfaction, waste, and the financial impact, if any, of implementing the guidelines. In FY08, we will explore the availability of information regarding the preparation of culturally appropriate meals for Summer Food Service Program sites.

To expand the resources available to districts, the Department collaborated with the University of Massachusetts Extension Program and School of Hospitality to develop resources for schools and communities. With the Extension Program, we reviewed and analyzed information on participation and demographics for two community programs, North Adams and Gill-Montague. School administration and community meetings were conducted to gather information on the School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Program in each community. The North Adams Summer Food Service Program gathered considerable interest and community engagement. The program held a special kick-off event and went on to increase participation for FY07 by 30 percent. Gill-Montague had a personnel change yet continues to pursue avenues to reach out to community children. The School of Hospitality has initiated the development of specialized training materials. The instructional materials and DVD's address concerns for food safety.

Part 3: Statistical Information

The following are intended to provide objective data regarding the status and changes in participation and availability of the School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs. The statistics provide information on the number of needy children, those eligible for free and reduced price meals, who have participated. It should be noted that *all* children are eligible to participate in the School Breakfast Program.

1. Percent of Needy Children Participation Statewide:

Fiscal Year	1993	28.90%
	1994	29.26%
	1995	30.51%
	1996	30.87%
	1997	31.62%
	1998	31.86%
	1999	34.79%
	2000	40.22%*
	2001	39.76%
	2002	40.38%
	2003	38.37%
	2004	39.16%
	2005	39.53%
	2006	40.94%
	2007	42.05%

^{*}This is a corrected figure based on a revision to the calculation method, providing a more accurate reflection of program participation.

2. Breakfast Served Statewide:

Fiscal Year	1993	12,974,839
	1994	14,025,845
	1995	15,248,591
	1996	15,890,238
	1997	16,735,865
	1998	17,113,689
	1999	17,811,196
	2000	18,612,759
	2001	19,516,468
	2002	20,261,470
	2003	20,139,328
	2004	20,246,056
	2005	20,947,787
	2006	21,828,681
	2007	22,643,155

3. Number of Participating Summer Sites:

Fiscal Year	1993	424
	1994	509
	1995	553
	1996	559
	1997	555
	1998	596
	1999	614
	2000	722
	2001	713
	2002	739
	2003	614
	2004	671
	2005	719
	2006	760
	2007	

4. Federal Reimbursements for Summer Food Service:

Fiscal Year	1993	\$2,452,139
	1994	\$2,889,330
	1995	\$2,229,505
	1996	\$3,642,503
	1997	\$3,434,177 **
	1998	\$3,896,776
	1999	\$4,410,708
	2000	\$4,746,550
	2001	\$4,828,138
	2002	\$5,134,627
	2003	\$4,215,778
	2004	\$4,254,066
	2005	\$4,403,704
	2006	\$4,700,000
	2007	\$5,134,141

^{**}The net decrease in federal Summer Food Service Program reimbursement can be directly attributed to the first ever decrease in maximum per meal reimbursement rates. For lunches, this decrease amounted to \$0.1475 per lunch (for operating costs).

Part 4: Summary

Throughout the year, Department staff noted increased inquiries on the breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs. With the outreach coordinators at Project Bread, we worked together with school district staff to expand and improve current programs and implement new programs to address the childhood hunger issue in Massachusetts.

The classroom meal service and universal breakfast initiative for school breakfast has had many positive outcomes for both the students and teachers. The revised resources have provided districts with tools to improve, promote and strengthen their breakfast programs. Universal breakfast programs have benefited from the Better Breakfast Initiative and the Cost Calculator have increased acceptance of breakfast as part of the school day and provided assistance in financial management issues. These have provided support in specific areas of program management and operations of district programs specifically budgets, menu offerings and nutritional content. Cities and towns that have adopted community partnerships to operate these programs see the most success in reaching children and addressing their nutritional needs. Increased student input and participation in the promotion of the breakfast programs have addressed misconceptions on food quality and availability. Providing opportunities for programs to share their successful models and discuss other methods to reach all eligible children has improved and strengthened programs in all regions of the commonwealth.

For summer programs, the key item is the link to community-based activities and the comprehensive operation of these summer sites. Incorporating marketing, presentation, locally grown produce and nutrient standards have improved the food service location operation and encouraged sustained participation. In more programs, nutrition education information and knowledge has been integrated into the summer day. Providing outreach coordinator job descriptions for local programs has provided an increase in sites as well as expanded the community involvement in summer programs. The availability of grant opportunities for these programs has allowed for the development of effective strategies to improve nutrition programs, outreach and accessibility. The Commonwealth's support of these programs contributed greatly to the ability to reach needy children.

Appendix A Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007

7053-1925.. For the school breakfast program for public and nonpublic schools and for grants to improve summer food programs during the summer school vacation period; provided, that of the sum appropriated in this item, not less than \$300,000 shall be expended for the summer food service outreach program and not less than \$200,000 shall be expended for the school breakfast outreach program, including reimbursement of municipal expenses; provided further, that within the summer food program, priority shall be given to extending such programs for the full summer vacation period and promoting increased participation in such programs; provided further, that the department of education shall solicit proposals from returning sponsors and school food authorities in time for implementation of such grant program during the summer of 2008; provided further, that such grants shall only be awarded to sponsors who can demonstrate their intent to offer full summer programs or increase participation; provided further, that the department shall require sufficient reporting from each grantee to measure the success of such grant program; provided further, that the department shall select grantees for the program authorized by this item not later than March 30, 2008; provided further, that not less than \$2,011,060 shall be expended for the universal school breakfast program whereby all children in schools receiving funds under the program shall be provided free, nutritious breakfasts at no cost to them; provided further, that subject to regulations of the board that specify time and learning standards, breakfasts shall be served during regular school hours; provided further, that participation shall be limited to those elementary schools mandated to serve breakfast under section 1C of chapter 69 of the General Laws where 60 per cent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the federally-funded school meals program; provided further, that the department shall select school sites for programs authorized by this item not later than November 15, 2007, and shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means on the preliminary results of these grants not later than January 9, 2008; provided further, that nothing in the universal school breakfast program shall give rise to enforceable legal rights in any party or enforceable entitlement to services; and provided further, that the department shall select grantees for the program authorized by this item not later than March 30, 2008, prior appropriation

Appendix B Massachusetts General Law chapter 15 section 1G(f)

(f) The commissioner shall submit a report to the clerk of the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the joint committee on education, arts and humanities on or before December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and ninety-four and on December thirty-first of each year thereafter. The report shall include, but not be limited to: the percentage of eligible children participating in school breakfast programs statewide during the previous school year; the amount of additional federal dollars brought into the state by all school breakfast and summer food service outreach program activities; the number of additional school breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs started in the preceding year; and the increase in participation in summer food services and school breakfast programs.