Government Policy – School Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Discussion Post Compiled

Question: July 14 2015

Good Morning

I have to pull an information note together on school breakfast and lunch programs from a policy, funding and best practice perspective.

Wondering if your jurisdiction has a government policy on such programs that you could share.

Thank you,

Carol Ann

Responses:

**From Sterling Carruthers July 14 2015:**

Hi Carol Ann,

- Our school boards have School Nutrition Policies - which recommend that schools provide a breakfast and/or snack program if possible.

- Our Department provides $200K of funding (through an NGO) to schools for their breakfast and/or snack programs

- Other funding sources for schools include Breakfast for Learning, Breakfast Clubs of Canada, and local donations

- There has been some interest from community groups and Home & School groups to explore a provincial lunch program - but there is no support at the Government level, as even for little PEI - it would have a $25M price tag, and not the best approach

Please let me know if you need anything else??

Take care,

Sterling

**From Helen Pitman July 14 2015:**

Our province has a “Food and Nutrition Policy for NS Public Schools” . https://www.ednet.ns.ca/healthy\_eating/

We provide annual funding to school boards to support the implementation of the policy. (Approx. $250,000)

For more information, contact Kim Hernandez.(she is copied here)

Helen

**From Gail Diachuk July 14 2015:**

Alberta does not have a policy regarding breakfast and lunch programs but is in the process of reviewing the need. Alberta does have provincial nutrition guidelines regarding food sold or served in the school.

Gail

**From Scott Beddall July 14 2015:**

Hi Carol Ann,

Our province has the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools, which sets the nutritional parameters for any foods and beverages that are sold to students (does not apply to scenarios where the foods/beverages are provided to students for free). http://www.healthyschoolsbc.ca/program/395/guidelines‑for‑food‑and‑beverage‑sales‑in‑bc‑schools. Additional resources and supports that have been developed to support implementation can be found at http://www.healthyschoolsbc.ca/category/26/food‑and‑beverage‑guidelines.

Our Ministry of Education provides $51.2 million in annual CommunityLINK (Learning Includes Nutrition and Knowledge) funding to all 60 school districts, designed to support academic achievement and social functioning of vulnerable students. The Vulnerable Student Supplement provides and additional $11.2 million across 25 of our school districts to support vulnerable student populations. The school districts can use these funds to support a variety of programs and services, which can include breakfast, lunch and snack programs, academic supports, counseling, youth workers and after‑school programs. Decisions about specific programs and services are left to the boards of education, and each school district has a designated staff member in a CommunityLINK coordinator role. http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education‑training/administration/community‑partnerships/communitylink

The BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program (SFVNP) provides a total of 13 servings of BC grown fruits and vegetables to every student in registered schools (1463 schools as of September 2014). The objective of the program is to increase students' knowledge of and preference for fruits and vegetables. As part of the 2013/2014 expansion of the SFVNP, milk delivery to K‑2 students commenced via a partnership with the BC Dairy Association. There are currently a total of 777 schools registered to receive milk (including 704 public schools and 73 First Nations schools).

A few years back, our ministries of Health and Education developed a School Meal and School Nutrition Program Handbook ‑ http://healthyschoolsbc.ca/program/587/school‑meal‑and‑school‑nutrition‑program‑handbook.

Our Ministry of Education did have MOUs in place with Breakfast Clubs of Canada and Breakfast for Learning, regarding collaboration in pursuit of shared interests (e.g. exploring opportunities for strategic alignment, encouraging the expansion of these programs in BC, promoting grants and resources, etc.) though these MOUs expired in June 2014 and have not yet been renewed (it sounds like there was intention to do so, but it has been backburnered in light of other priorities...).

Cheers,

**From Stace Burnard July 14 2015**

Here in Yukon with 28 schools (with some very small schools), iIn 2014/15, with grants from Yukon H&SS, Breakfast Clubs of Canada and Global Change for Children ‑‑ ‑ Yukon Food for Learning Association ‑ YFFLA provided $137,900 to Yukon Schools ‑‑‑ I think in addition to that money an additional $8000 was provided by Breakfast for Learning (in 2015/16 that funding will flow through YFFLA.

Here is a link to our policy: http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/pdf/policies/school\_nutrition\_policy.pdf

We have a draft of some new nutrition and beverage guidelines.

**Also: Briefing note dated 2012 on Yukon Food for Learning Association update**

|  |
| --- |
| **MINISTERIAL NOTE** |
| **[ ]  For Session** | **[ ]  New** |
| **[x]  For Information** | **[x]  Replacement (discard previous)** |
| **[ ]  Seeking Advice** | **[ ]  Update (add to previous)** |

|  |
| --- |
| **TOPIC: Food for Learning** |
| **Issue: Status Report** |

Background:

* **The Yukon Food for Learning Association (YFFLA)** is a non-profit organization that supports school food programs and encourages lifelong healthy eating programs.
* **YFFLA** formed in 1996 originally with assistance from the **Breakfast for Learning,** Canadian Living Foundation, a national fundraising foundation that supports child nutrition programs in Canada. It is now an independent organization based in the Yukon raising funds for schools all across the territory.
* The Department of Health and Social Services provides a nutrition grant annually to supplement the *Food for Learning* program.
* School food programs vary from breakfast and lunch programs to snack programs, and involve many community members. Each program responds to the unique needs of each school and community.
* The program has in the past been active in 29 Yukon schools (all schools plus the Independent Learning Centre). In one year, approximately **160,000 breakfasts, lunches or snacks are funded and distributed throughout schools in the Yukon.**
* **Food For Learning provides project-based grants to schools. Schools have been very proactive in organizing their own programs and funding responds to the specific needs of each school.**
* **At this time, Robert Service School on Dawson and Chief Zzeh Gittlit School in Old Crow have not applied for a grant from Food for Learning for the 2011/12 fiscal year. It is not yet known if they plan to apply for the 2012/13 year.**
* The Department of Education provides operational support for the food and nutrition programs of the Yukon Food for Learning Association:
	+ Office space (formerly at Whitehorse Elementary, and currently at Jack Hulland Elementary) and furniture
	+ Access to services (phone/fax/internet, interschool mail and IT support)
	+ Use of the photocopier and office supplies
* Subject to application, the Department has in the past also contributed funding to some Food for Learning activities.
* Some specific successes of the programs:
	+ Teachers report that children who eat a healthy breakfast are more focused and able to learn. The program is filling a need for students who may otherwise not access nutritious foods at home.
	+ In Teslin, the principal has vegetable and fruit trays always set out for the students.
	+ Watson Lake Secondary School now offers a breakfast and lunch program. While attendance issues continue, the availability of healthy meals is drawing students back towards the school.
	+ At Ghuch Tla School in Carcross, breakfast is cooked by different community groups on different days of the week, including the RCMP, nurses and school council. The program has offered a great opportunity to strengthen relationships in the community, as well as offer healthy options for kids.

**From Jennifer Munro-Galloway July 15 2015:**

Hi Carol Ann,

Ontario has the School Food and Beverage Policy that outlines what can be sold in schools. Details can be found here: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/policy.html

Ontario supports breakfast/snack/lunch programs through the Student Nutrition Program: http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/schoolsnacks/index.aspx

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Jennifer