

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means by Prior Reference

Vote: 4 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Metsger, Morse, Hass

Nays: Kruse

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/6, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school district that makes breakfast accessible to provide breakfast to all students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches at no charge. Requires the Department of Education to reimburse school districts for any amounts paid to make breakfast accessible at no charge. Applies first to 2009-2010 school year. Appropriates moneys to the department. Declares emergency; effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact
- Opportunity to leverage federal funds

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Generally, public or nonprofit private schools of high school grade or under and public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions may participate in the School Breakfast Program. School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the program receive cash subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve breakfasts that meet federal requirements, and must offer free or reduced-price breakfasts to eligible children. Most of the support the USDA provides to schools comes in the form of a cash reimbursement for each breakfast served. The current basic cash reimbursement rates are: free breakfasts \$1.40; reduced-price breakfasts \$1.10; and paid breakfasts \$0.25.

Under a similar requirement that eliminated students' co-payment for breakfast in Washington, participation by eligible students increased 45 percent.