



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
www.esd401.org
Phone 509-925-8000
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May 8, 2023

Dear Families,

Ida Nason Aronica Elementary is committed to ensuring that all of our students start the day with a nutritious breakfast. Kids who eat breakfast tend to miss less school, get better grades and are more likely to graduate high school. This letter is to inform you that our school will begin serving **breakfast in the classroom** on the first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year: 9/7/2023.

What is breakfast in the classroom? Breakfast will be served to students via mobile carts in the hallway and eaten in their classrooms after the bell rings. Students will have an opportunity to eat breakfast during the first 15 minutes of class while their teachers take attendance, collect homework or begin lessons as usual. Breakfast will no longer be served in the cafeteria before the school day starts.

Why did we make this change? The Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act of 2018 expanded breakfast opportunities by requiring Breakfast After the Bell Programs in a number of schools. Ida Nason Aronica was identified as one of these schools. Serving breakfast in the classroom gives more students the opportunity to eat breakfast at school. It removes common barriers like students missing breakfast because they arrive late or because they would rather skip breakfast to hang out with their friends outside of the cafeteria. Now all students have the opportunity to eat together in their classrooms and start their day ready to learn.

What is served for breakfast? School breakfast always includes milk, fruit or juice and whole grains. Even though breakfast items provided to students at school sometimes look like the same breakfast items found in stores, school breakfast items have more whole grains and less sugar, sodium, fat and calories. Breakfast menus are available online at <https://www.esd401.org/departments/food-services>.

How much does school breakfast cost? Breakfast is free for all students under the Community Eligibility Provision regardless of free/reduced/paid-meal eligibility.

If you have questions, please contact the Nutrition Services department at 509-925-8217.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Epstein-Solfield
Child Nutrition Director
Ellensburg School District

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, kim.snider@esd401.org and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org, 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.