

Stephen D. Harrison
Assistant Superintendent
for Business



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Dear K-5 Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to announce that the East Islip School District will be offering free breakfast to every student in grades K-5, through its Breakfast in the Classroom program, beginning 11/4/26. Free meals are made possible through the District's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision program, which is based upon the District having an average free and reduced population greater than 25%. Access to free meals is also included in the New York State Budget. Despite free meals being available, student breakfast participation rates remain relatively low, and like other local districts, the Breakfast in the Classroom initiative has been undertaken to increase participation rates.

This is an exciting opportunity to support the health, well-being, and readiness to learn of all our elementary students. The benefits of this program extend beyond breakfast. Providing a consistent morning routine can help students feel connected, prepared, and ready to engage in their school day. It also promotes equitable access, ensuring that every student has the same opportunity to benefit from this important resource. The current breakfast program, which will no longer be available as of 11/4/26, only serves those students who are able to be dropped off prior to the start of the school day.

We understand that families may have questions about how breakfast in the classroom will affect the instructional day. Please know that protecting instructional time and maintaining a strong focus on student learning remain priorities for our district.

Breakfast will be incorporated into the established morning classroom routine, with careful attention to minimizing disruptions and ensuring that students transition into their academic day in an organized and timely manner. Our teachers and building administrators will work together to establish consistent procedures that support both student needs and instructional expectations. The program is intended to support learning, not take away from it. We are committed to implementing breakfast in a way that prioritizes students' well-being while preserving meaningful opportunities for teaching and learning.

We also recognize that families have different schedules and morning childcare needs. We understand that early drop-off has been part of some families' routines, and we appreciate that changes to established schedules can require planning and adjustment. As we transition to this expanded breakfast program, we want to clarify that breakfast at school is a meal program and was never intended to serve as an early-morning childcare or supervision program.

For families who need care before the start of the school day, morning childcare is available for all students beginning at 7:30 a.m. and continuing until the start of school. This provides families with a designated option for early-morning supervision. Please contact Mrs. Pamela Rosand at 631-224-2012 for registration information.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we establish this program, with the goal of making breakfast accessible to all students. Thank you for your continued partnership, your flexibility as we implement this initiative, and your shared commitment to the success and well-being of every East Islip student. A Q&A document with further information regarding this program will be posted to the District website in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Harrison
Assistant Superintendent for Business

Paul E. Manzo
Superintendent of Schools