

East Islip Breakfast in the Classroom FAQ

October 2, 2026

1. Why are we making this change?

Free school meals are made possible through the District's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision program, as well as access to free meals being made available through the New York State Budget. Despite free meals being available, student breakfast participation rates remain relatively low.

Like a number of other local school districts, East Islip is implementing Breakfast in the Classroom to provide students with more convenient and equitable access to breakfast.

2. When does Breakfast in the Classroom start?

Breakfast in the Classroom begins Wednesday, November 4. Students will place their first order in class on Monday, November 2. Accommodations will be made to provide meals for students who were not able to order breakfast the previous day.

3. Will Breakfast in the Classroom reduce instructional time?

No, breakfast will be incorporated into the established morning classroom routine and is not intended to reduce instructional time, 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 student needs without impacting 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.

Students who participate will eat breakfast as part of the morning arrival routine, while students who do not participate will continue with their usual morning activities.

The goal is to provide students with access to breakfast while maintaining the instructional expectations and learning opportunities already in place.

4. What if my child arrives late to school?

Students will be afforded an opportunity to eat breakfast upon arrival, as long as said arrival time does not conflict with the serving of lunches.

5. Do all students have to order breakfast?

Participation in this program is optional. Students who have already eaten at home will continue with their established morning activities. Once the arrival period concludes, students will transition into regular instruction together.

The District recognizes that every family and student has different needs. Some students will eat breakfast at home, while others may benefit from having access to a school breakfast. Students will not be required to eat breakfast at school. The purpose of the program is to ensure that students who need or want breakfast have access to a meal before the academic day begins.

6. What's on the menu?

Each day, students will have the choice of choosing from the rotating special of the day, such as breakfast granola bar, waffles, pancakes, breakfast egg sandwich, breakfast buns or options that will be available every day, such as a double chocolate chip muffin or yogurt. The breakfast program will continue to follow applicable federal nutritional standards.

Breakfast and Lunch menus can be accessed via the FD Meal Planner link on the Food Services page, which can be accessed under the “For Parents” drop-down menu of the District homepage. Information pertaining to nutrients, allergens and ingredients can be found here. Below is a link that serves as an example of information available for each school.

<https://www.fdmealplanner.com/pages/calendar/?tenantId=3&accountId=47&locationId=209&mealPeriodId=1>

7. How are food allergies going to be managed?

Food allergies on record with the District are noted in both the District’s student management system and the cafeteria point of sale system. Orders received by the cafeteria staff will be cross referenced with allergies recorded in the point-of-sale system.

8. Will the current Breakfast program continue when the Breakfast in the Classroom is implemented on 11/4?

The current breakfast program will no longer be available as of 11/4/26. This program only serves those students who are able to be dropped off prior to the start of the school day, while the Breakfast in the Classroom initiative is intended to provide equitable broader access to all elementary students.

9. Will the before school enrichment program be available for families that utilized the breakfast program for child-care?

Yes, each family currently utilizing the breakfast program will have the option of enrolling their child in the before school enrichment program. **Please contact Mrs. Pamela Rosand on 631-224-2012 for registration dates and further information.**

Student drop-off times are 8:57 AM for RCK and JFK, and 9:27 AM for CES and Timber Point. Families who need earlier drop-off can register for the before school enrichment program.

10. Will students have an opportunity to socialize prior to the beginning of instructional time?

The District recognizes that the current breakfast program has provided students with an opportunity to socialize and ease into the school day. That transition period will continue; Breakfast in the Classroom simply incorporates breakfast into a portion of the morning time that already exists for students to settle in, socialize and prepare for learning.

11. How will cleanup be facilitated?

The District is hiring custodial aides dedicated to the Breakfast in the Classroom program, with the associated salary expense being funded by the Cafeteria Fund. These additional staff members will assist with the collection and removal of breakfast waste and help ensure that classrooms are ready for the school day.