

*Prepared by the Joint Fiscal Office  
3/31/2021*

**New Breakfast Cost Range: \$6-\$10 million**

**Total Statewide Breakfast Cost Range: \$8-\$13 million**

**Analysis Details:**

This analysis estimates the new cost to provide breakfast to all public-school students in Vermont for 180 days per year. About 30% of students already have access to breakfast through universal school meal programs.

**Participation:** The cost of the universal breakfast program can change significantly depending on the student participation rate (Table 1). This analysis provides a range to show how the cost of the program may change based on student participation:

- Average participation: the current rate at Vermont schools with universal school meals (rounded up to the nearest 5%): 60% breakfast
- High participation: All students in attendance on an average day in Vermont 95%

**State and Federal Aid:** This analysis assumes the FY18-FY20 average percentage of students on free and reduced-price meals of 40%. This percentage is not likely to change because of a universal breakfast program because families would still need to submit income forms to receive lunch through the free and reduced-price meals. This analysis includes the state of Vermont per meal contribution of \$.30 which covers the remaining cost to families in the “reduced-price” category. Therefore, all of the students in the free and reduced price category are already offered breakfast at no cost to families, which is captured in this analysis.

This analysis also includes the federal aid provided through the School Breakfast Program which reduces the per meal cost of paid meals by \$0.32.