



MEDIA RELEASE

Governor Hutchinson Sees Breakfast in the Classroom in Action *"A Great Way to Start the Day."*



LITTLE ROCK, AR (November 12, 2015)— This morning Governor Asa Hutchinson joined the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign members for a tour of the Breakfast in the Classroom program at Daisy Bates Elementary School. When the Governor ask the students what they like best about school breakfast in the classroom, one boy shouted, "It's better than what I get at home." Another reminded the Governor that "breakfast is the most important meal of the day."

Breakfast After the Bell programs (like Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go, and Second chance Breakfast) make breakfast part of the school day and help insure kids are focused on school work and not their hungry tummies. According to Daisy Bates Principal Matt Mellor,



since they started Breakfast in the Classroom in 2012, they have seen attendance and behavior improve as well as test scores and the general health of the students, with fewer visits to the nurses office. This assertion is borne out in a recent [study](#) by the Food Research and Action Center and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Breakfast After the Bell programs have also been embraced by ForwARd Arkansas and the Governor's Healthy Active Arkansas program.

An important focus of the Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign is increasing access to nutritious foods for kids across the state. Most schools in Arkansas have a high percentage of students that qualify for free or reduced priced lunch and breakfast. At schools like Daisy Bates

and others, the percentage is well over 80 percent. Helping make sure that all children who qualify are eating school breakfast is important to the academic success of children from low-income families. "Eating a good nutritious breakfast is important for our kids," Governor Hutchinson said. "This program is about kids being ready to learn," Hutchinson added.

Dr. Jerry Guess, superintendent of the Pulaski County Special School District, told Governor Hutchinson, "This is a great program and we're happy to be providing it to our students."

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