

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **ALASKA**, approximately **32,000** children live in food-insecure households, jeopardizing their health and well-being.¹

School meal programs combat food insecurity by providing millions of children with the nutrition they need to learn and thrive.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is an option within the school meal programs that increases students' access to nutritious food by allowing schools and school districts serving large numbers of children from families with low incomes to offer meals at no charge to all students.

How CEP Schools Are Reimbursed

Rather than relying on school meal applications to determine a school's federal reimbursements, CEP schools are reimbursed based on the share of students who are automatically eligible for free school meals without an application because they meet specific criteria, such as being in foster care or participating in certain federal means-tested programs, including SNAP. Schools can adopt CEP if at least 25 percent of students meet these criteria. The more students who are automatically eligible for free school meals, the more federal reimbursement CEP schools receive.

CEP Is a Win for Students, Families, and Schools

CEP provides all students access to the balanced school breakfasts and lunches they need to be well-nourished and ready to learn, while reducing the stigma often present in school cafeterias when schools have to track students' eligibility for free, reduced-price, and paid meals.

When students have access to free meals at school, families have lower grocery bills and more money in their household budgets to help make ends meet.

CEP makes school meal operations more efficient and effective for schools and districts. CEP eliminates the administrative burden associated with school meal applications, strengthens program integrity, and supports school nutrition finances by eliminating school meal debt and increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch programs, which allows for economies of scale.

In the 2024–2025 school year, 74 percent of eligible schools nationwide adopted CEP. These 54,000 schools reached more than 27 million students around the country.



In the 2024–2025 school year:

228 SCHOOLS

in **ALASKA** adopted CEP.

An additional **81** schools were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) CUTS

recently enacted in H.R. 1 will **exacerbate food insecurity** and have ripple effects for the school meal programs, including threatening schools' ability to implement CEP.

As children lose access to SNAP, their automatic eligibility for free school meals is severed and federal reimbursement for meals served in CEP schools decreases, jeopardizing the program's financial viability.

In **ALASKA**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



42,289

children ate a school lunch and **22,714** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



37

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **1** school district had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



38,622

children attended schools that adopted CEP.

By repealing SNAP cuts and investing in CEP, policymakers can reduce barriers that keep eligible children from receiving free school meals and help families afford to put food on the table.

¹ Analysis of 2022–2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement, rounded to the nearest 1,000. The data for this analysis was pooled across multiple years to ensure adequate sample sizes for every state. As a result, cross-state comparisons using multiple fact sheets may cover different time periods.

² Average daily participation data for school breakfast and lunch are reflective of April 2025. U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. (2025). State-level table current activity. Accessed September 24, 2025. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/child-nutrition-tables>

The following table identifies the school districts in each of **ALASKA'S** congressional districts that contain CEP-eligible and participating schools, as well as the number of children enrolled in CEP schools for the 2024–2025 school year.³

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
At-Large Congressional District			
ALASKA GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	6	317
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	48	35	14,979
ANNETTE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	316
BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT	15	15	1,821
BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	2	115
CHATHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1	53
COPPER RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	2	216
CORDOVA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	2	359
CRAIG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	390
DELTA/GREELY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
DILLINGHAM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	413
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	0	
GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	240
HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	235
HOONAH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	123
HYDABURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1	70
JUNEAU BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1	91
KAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	107
KASHUNAMIUT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	323
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	3	117
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	0	
KLAWOCK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	118

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	11	5	91
KUSPUK SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	9	319
LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	10	315
LOWER KUSKOKWIM SCHOOL DISTRICT	29	26	3,685
LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT	11	11	2,064
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	30	16	4,209
MOUNT EDGECUMBE	1	1	362
NENANA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	163
NOME PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	3	660
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	11	11	1,918
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	13	12	1,941
PETERSBURG BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	466
SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	210
SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	7	162
SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	8	628
VALDEZ CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
YUKON FLATS SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	6	202
YUKON-KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	10	379
YUPIIT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	445