

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **ALABAMA**, approximately **212,000** 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:

1,133 SCHOOLS

in **ALABAMA** adopted CEP. An additional **183** 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 **ALABAMA**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



541,083

children ate a school lunch and **297,784** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



139

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **25** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



553,390

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 **ALABAMA'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
Congressional District #1			
ANDALUSIA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,823
BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	41	41	31,664
BREWTON CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	808
COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,853
COVINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,018
DALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,269
DALEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,168
DOTHAN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	16	16	7,913
ELBA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	604
ENTERPRISE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	0	
ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	11	11	4,068
GENEVA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,230
GENEVA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	2,773
GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	2,644
HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,497
HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	13	13	6,610
MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	85	85	49,944
OPP CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,344
ORANGE BEACH CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	0	
OZARK CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,962
SARALAND CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	0	
SATSUMA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	0	
Congressional District #2			
BARBOUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	645
BULLOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,364

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,724
CHICKASAW CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	974
CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,132
CONECUH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	1,104
CRENSHAW COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	2,057
EUFULA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,351
MACON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,522
MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	85	85	49,944
MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,962
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	49	49	25,476
PHENIX CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	11	11	7,182
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,123
RUSSELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,698
TROY CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,769
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,405
Congressional District #3			
ALEXANDER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,786
ANNISTON CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,805
ATTALLA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,478
AUBURN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	14	0	
BOAZ CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM	5	5	2,559
CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	16	16	7,697
CHAMBERS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,070
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,808
CITY OF LEEDS BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,221
CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,756

(continued)

NOTE: School districts, rather than individual schools, are listed under congressional districts. If a school district crosses congressional district boundaries, all of their schools and children are included in each congressional district. Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to inconsistencies in how the data sources numerically identify and name school districts and schools. Unmatched school districts are listed as unassigned.

³ Food Research & Action Center. (2025). Community Eligibility Provision database for the 2024–2025 school year. <https://frac.org/community-eligibility-database/>. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Common core of data for the 2023–2024 school year. <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/files.asp>; and NCES. School district geographic relationship files for the 119th Congress. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/geographic/relationshipfiles>

The following table identifies the school districts in each of **ALABAMA'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

(continued)

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
CLEBURNE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,516
ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	21	21	8,574
GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	12	12	4,815
JACKSONVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,683
LANETT CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	958
LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	14	14	9,055
OPELIKA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	0	
OXFORD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	4,113
PELL CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	0	
PHENIX CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	11	11	7,182
PIEDMONT CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,045
RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,051
ROANOKE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,383
ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	18	18	8,914
SYLACAUGA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,021
TALLADEGA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,301
TALLADEGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	16	16	6,921
TALLAPOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,767
TALLASSEE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,512
Congressional District #4			
ALBERTVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	5,856
ARAB CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	0	
BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	14	14	7,499
BOAZ CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM	5	5	2,559
COLBERT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	2,614
CULLMAN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	0	
CULLMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	25	25	9,689

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	12	12	8,629
FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,206
FLORENCE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	4,466
FORT PAYNE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	3,503
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	3,523
GUNTERSVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	0	
HALEYVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,610
JASPER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,855
LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,139
LAUDERDALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	14	14	8,069
MARION COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	3,249
MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	13	13	5,951
MUSCLE SHOALS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,921
ONEONTA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,376
RUSSELLVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,621
SHEFFIELD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	975
TUSCALOOSA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	19	19	11,071
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	30	30	16,390
TUSCUMBIA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,576
WALKER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	17	17	7,009
WINFIELD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,196
WINSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	2,284
Congressional District #5			
ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	0	
DECATUR CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	19	19	8,657
HARTSELLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	0	

(continued)

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³ Food Research & Action Center. (2025). Community Eligibility Provision database for the 2024–2025 school year. <https://frac.org/community-eligibility-database/>. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Common core of data for the 2023–2024 school year. <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/files.asp>; and NCES. School district geographic relationship files for the 119th Congress. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/geographic/relationshipfiles>

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(continued)

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HUNTSVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	39	39	19,297
JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	16	16	5,016
LAUDERDALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	14	14	8,069
LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	11	11	4,572
LIMESTONE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	15	0	
MADISON CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	0	
MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	27	0	
MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	16	0	
SCOTTSBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,421
Congressional District #6			
ALABASTER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	0	
AUTAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	12	12	8,857
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,014
BIRMINGHAM CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	42	42	20,481
CHILTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	12	12	7,869
CITY OF LEEDS BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,221
COOSA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	771
ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	15	15	11,348
HOMEWOOD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	0	
HOOVER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	0	
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	55	55	35,078
PELHAM CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	0	
SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	20	0	
SYLACAUGA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,021
TALLADEGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	16	16	6,921
TALLASSEE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,512

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Congressional District #7			
BESSEMER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,203
BIRMINGHAM CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	42	42	20,481
CHOCTAW COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,009
CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,132
DALLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	11	11	2,303
DEMOPOLIS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,990
FAIRFIELD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,503
GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	863
HALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,190
HOMEWOOD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	0	
HOOVER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	0	
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	55	55	35,078
LINDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	390
LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	1,143
MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	959
MIDFIELD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,040
PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	902
PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,231
SELMA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,262
SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	896
TARRANT CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,296
THOMASVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,012
TUSCALOOSA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION	19	19	11,071
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	30	30	16,390
WILCOX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,169

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Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
ALABAMA AEROSPACE AND AVIATION SCHOOLS, INC	1	1	85
BREAKTHROUGH CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	324
BUILD-UP COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	45
CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS OF ALABAMA, INC	3	3	660
COVENANT ACADEMY OF MOBILE	1	1	251
DEVELOPING ALABAMA YOUTH FOUNDATION, INC.	1	1	55
EMPOWER COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	2	483
EPHESUS ACADEMY	1	1	59
FLORETTA P. CARSON VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS	1	1	232
HEART OF MARY SCHOOL	1	1	66
HOLY FAMILY CRISTO REY	1	1	154
HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL - HUNTSVILLE	1	1	182
I3 ACADEMY	2	2	600
LEAD ACADEMY	2	2	719
LEGACY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	408
LIFE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	490
LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	1	88
MAEF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC. (ACCEL)	2	2	680
MAGIC CITY ACCEPTANCE ACADEMY	1	0	
MENTAL RETARDATION BOARD OF DALE COUNTY/ VIVIAN B. ADAMS SCHOOL	1	1	12
NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ACADEMY	1	1	97
PRICHARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1	0	
RESTORATION ACADEMY	1	1	400

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
RESURRECTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
SACRED HEART SCHOOL - CULLMAN	1	0	
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	1	143
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL	1	1	100
UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL	2	2	359
VALIANT CROSS ACADEMY	2	2	190

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