

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **COLORADO**, approximately **138,000** 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.

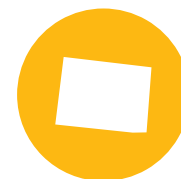
CEP Is a Win for Students, Families, and Schools

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:

1,357 SCHOOLS

in **COLORADO** adopted CEP. An additional **119** 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 **COLORADO**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



460,031

children ate a school lunch and **209,019** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



161

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **20** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



580,959

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 2020–2023 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 **COLORADO'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			
CHERRY CREEK 5	52	49	33,873
DENVER COUNTY 1	167	156	66,008
JEFFERSON COUNTY R-1	99	94	43,979
Congressional District #2			
BOULDER VALLEY RE 2	37	37	16,540
CLEAR CREEK RE-1	3	3	334
EAGLE COUNTY RE 50	11	5	1,307
EAST GRAND 2	2	2	595
ESTES PARK R-3 SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	994
GILPIN COUNTY RE-1	2	2	409
HAYDEN RE-1	1	0	
JEFFERSON COUNTY R-1	99	94	43,979
POUDRE R-1	46	45	24,374
ROARING FORK RE-1	10	0	
ST VRAIN VALLEY RE-1J	41	40	21,853
SUMMIT RE-1	2	1	50
THOMPSON R2-J	30	29	13,524
WELD RE-4 AU	7	7	4,610
Congressional District #3			
AGUILAR REORGANIZED 6	2	2	118
ALAMOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DIST # 11J	6	6	2,102
ARCHULETA COUNTY 50 JT	4	4	1,489
BAYFIELD 10 JT-R	4	4	1,239
BRANSON REORGANIZED 82	1	1	76
CENTENNIAL R-1	1	1	192

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
CENTER 26 JT	4	4	611
CREEDE SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
DE BEQUE 49JT	1	1	164
DEL NORTE C-7	2	2	364
DELTA COUNTY 50(J)	14	14	4,257
DOLORES COUNTY RE NO.2	2	2	249
DOLORES RE-4A	3	3	607
DURANGO 9-R	13	12	3,068
EAGLE COUNTY RE 50	11	5	1,307
EAST OTERO SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1	4	4	1,325
EDISON 54 JT	2	2	45
FOWLER R-4J	3	3	346
GARFIELD 16	4	4	1,409
GARFIELD RE-2	10	10	4,110
GUNNISON WATERSHED RE1J	3	0	
HINSDALE COUNTY RE 1	1	1	41
HOEHNE REORGANIZED 3	1	0	
HUERFANO RE-1	3	3	484
IGNACIO 11 JT	4	4	667
KIM REORGANIZED 88	1	1	8
LA VETA RE-2	2	2	206
MANCOS RE-6	4	4	525
MANZANOLA 3J	2	2	178
MEEKER RE1	3	3	769
MESA COUNTY VALLEY 51	39	35	16,495
MOFFAT 2	2	2	216

(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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MOFFAT COUNTY RE:NO 1	7	6	1,410
MONTE VISTA C-8	5	5	962
MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ RE-1	10	10	2,489
MONTRÖSE COUNTY RE-1J	15	15	6,105
MOUNTAIN VALLEY RE 1	1	1	141
NORTH CONEJOS RE-1J	5	5	945
NORWOOD R-2J	1	1	205
OURAY R-1	3	3	167
PLATEAU VALLEY 50	3	3	268
PRIMERO REORGANIZED 2	2	0	
PUEBLO CITY 60	32	30	13,358
PUEBLO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 70	22	21	8,939
RANGELY RE-4	2	0	
RIDGWAY R-2	1	0	
ROARING FORK RE-1	10	0	
ROCKY FORD R-2	3	2	441
SANFORD 6J	2	2	377
SANGRE DE CRISTO RE-22J	2	2	276
SARGENT RE-33J	4	3	290
SIERRA GRANDE R-30	1	1	305
SILVERTON 1	3	1	16
SOUTH CONEJOS RE-10	3	2	155
SWINK 33	2	2	300
TELLURIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1	2	1	178
TRINIDAD 1	3	3	750
WEST END RE-2	3	3	229

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Congressional District #4			
ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J	58	56	37,168
AGATE 300	2	2	80
AKRON R-1	2	2	414
ARICKAREE R-2	2	2	87
ARRIBA-FLAGLER C-20	1	1	175
AULT-HIGHLAND RE-9	3	3	962
BENNETT 29J	4	3	1,138
BENT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	3	3	443
BETHUNE R-5	1	1	107
BIG SANDY 100J	3	0	
BRUSH RE-2(J)	4	4	1,418
BUFFALO RE-4J	2	2	321
BURLINGTON RE-6J	3	3	684
BYERS 32J	2	2	521
CALHAN RJ-1	2	2	431
CAMPO RE-6	2	2	35
CERRY CREEK 5	52	49	33,873
CHEYENNE COUNTY RE-5	2	2	176
CROWLEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE 1-J	2	2	376
DEER TRAIL 26J	2	2	401
DOUGLAS COUNTY RE 1	17	16	7,139
EADS RE-1	3	3	193
EATON RE-2	5	5	1,982
EDISON 54 JT	2	2	45
ELBERT 200	2	0	

(continued)

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(continued)

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ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
ELLCOTT 22	3	1	339
FORT MORGAN RE-3	8	8	3,456
FOWLER R-4J	3	3	346
GENOA-HUGO C113	1	1	231
GRANADA RE-1	2	2	197
HI-PLAINS R-23	1	1	115
HOLLY RE-3	1	1	270
HOLYOKE RE-1J	2	2	530
IDALIA RJ-3	2	2	162
JULESBURG RE-1	2	2	226
KIOWA C-2	3	3	314
KIT CARSON R-1	2	2	117
LAMAR RE-2	6	6	1,469
LIBERTY J-4	1	1	65
LIMON RE-4J	2	2	459
LONE STAR 101	2	2	75
MANZANOLA 3J	2	2	178
MCCLAVE RE-2	2	2	150
MIAMI/YODER 60 JT	2	2	428
OTIS R-3	2	2	191
PAWNEE RE-12	1	0	
PEYTON 23 JT	3	3	608
PLAINVIEW RE-2	1	0	
PLATTE VALLEY RE-7	3	3	1,193
POUDRE R-1	46	45	24,374
PRAIRIE RE-11	1	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
PRITCHETT RE-3	3	1	14
REVERE SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	148
SCHOOL DISTRICT 27J	27	27	20,632
SPRINGFIELD RE-4	2	2	287
STRASBURG 31J	3	3	1,181
STRATTON R-4	3	3	208
THOMPSON R2-J	30	29	13,524
VALLEY RE-1	7	7	1,908
VILAS RE-5	2	2	52
WALSH RE-1	2	2	180
WELD COUNTY SCH DIST RE-3J	6	6	2,433
WELD RE-4 AU	7	7	4,610
WELDON VALLEY RE-20(J)	2	1	102
WIGGINS RE-50(J)	4	4	874
WILEY RE-13 JT	2	1	120
WOODLIN R-104	2	2	80
WRAY RD-2	2	2	728
YUMA 1	4	3	781
Congressional District #5			
ACADEMY 20	19	18	9,672
CALHAN RJ-1	2	2	431
CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN 12	2	2	515
COLORADO SPRINGS 11	63	45	17,905
DISTRICT 49	17	16	8,966
EDISON 54 JT	2	2	45
ELLCOTT 22	3	1	339

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FOUNTAIN 8	7	7	5,418
FREMONT RE-2	3	3	1,384
HANOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT 28	2	2	280
HARRISON 2	20	20	8,186
MANITOU SPRINGS 14	4	4	1,224
PEYTON 23 JT	3	3	608
WIDEFIELD 3	17	17	8,952
Congressional District #6			
ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J	58	56	37,168
BENNETT 29J	4	3	1,138
CHERRY CREEK 5	52	49	33,873
DENVER COUNTY 1	167	156	66,008
DOUGLAS COUNTY RE 1	17	16	7,139
ENGLEWOOD 1	9	9	2,450
JEFFERSON COUNTY R-1	99	94	43,979
LITTLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT 6	11	11	5,781
SCHOOL DISTRICT 27J	27	27	20,632
SHERIDAN 2	5	5	1,154
Congressional District #7			
ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS	45	45	25,811
BOULDER VALLEY RE 2	37	37	16,540
BUENA VISTA R-31	5	5	1,010
CANON CITY RE-1	7	6	1,763
COTOPAXI RE-3	3	3	161
CRIPPLE CREEK-VICTOR RE-1	2	2	304
CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1	3	3	296
FREMONT RE-2	3	3	1,384

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
JEFFERSON COUNTY R-1	99	94	43,979
LAKE COUNTY R-1	4	4	881
MANITOU SPRINGS 14	4	4	1,224
PLATTE CANYON 1	2	2	533
SALIDA R-32	5	5	1,259
SCHOOL DISTRICT 27J	27	27	20,632
ST VRAIN VALLEY RE-1J	41	40	21,853
WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-8	5	5	2,326
WESTMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	18	18	7,823
WOODLAND PARK RE-2	6	5	1,760
Congressional District #8			
ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS	45	45	25,811
ADAMS COUNTY 14	10	10	5,522
EATON RE-2	5	5	1,982
GREELEY 6	33	32	20,877
JOHNSTOWN-MILLIKEN RE-5J	6	6	3,639
MAPLETON 1	19	19	6,819
PLATTE VALLEY RE-7	3	3	1,193
SCHOOL DISTRICT 27J	27	27	20,632
ST VRAIN VALLEY RE-1J	41	40	21,853
THOMPSON R2-J	30	29	13,524
WELD COUNTY RE-1	6	6	1,802
WELD COUNTY SCH DIST RE-3J	6	6	2,433
WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-8	5	5	2,326
WELD RE-4 AU	7	7	4,610
WESTMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	18	18	7,823

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Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	1	181
CHARTERCHOICE COLLABORATIVE	28	26	10,588
COLO SCHOOL F/T DEAF AND THE BLIND	1	0	
CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL	1	0	
ESCUELA DE GUADALUPE	1	0	
GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH	1	1	130
HOPE ONLINE	2	1	1,479
LANDMARK BAPTIST SCHOOL	1	1	62
LARADON SCHOOL	1	0	
MASLOW ACADEMY OF APPLIED LEARNING INC.	1	0	
MORGRIDGE ACADEMY	1	1	57
SKY RANCH ACADEMY	1	1	358
ST. ROSE OF LIMA	1	0	
STATE OF COLORADO, CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE	23	21	10,074
SWALLOWS CHARTER ACADEMY	2	2	827
TENNYSON CENTER	1	1	40

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