

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **CONNECTICUT**, approximately **67,000** 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:

518 SCHOOLS

in **CONNECTICUT** adopted CEP. An additional **170** 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 **CONNECTICUT**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



295,077

children ate a school lunch and **137,341** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



63

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **48** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



251,217

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 **CONNECTICUT'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			
BERLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	7	2,489
BRISTOL SCHOOL DISTRICT	13	13	7,458
CROMWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
EAST HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	13	13	6,462
EAST WINDSOR SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,011
GLASTONBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	440
HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	44	44	18,649
MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	15	14	6,149
MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	10	4,427
NEWINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	0	
PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
SOUTHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
TORRINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	6	3,935
WEST HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	0	
WETHERSFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	10	4,555
WINCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	611
WINDSOR LOCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	4	1,455
WINDSOR SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	0	
Congressional District #2			
BOZRAH SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
CANTERBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
CHAPLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	1	156
CLINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
EAST HADDAM SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
EAST HAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
EAST LYME SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
ENFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	0	
GLASTONBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	440
GRISWOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
GROTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	5	3,377
KILLINGLY SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
LEDYARD SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
LISBON SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
MANSFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
MONTVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
NEW LONDON SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	6	3,002
NORWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT	11	11	3,557
PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	0	
PRESTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
PUTNAM SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,173
SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	277
STAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	4	1,352
THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
TOLLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	3	732
WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
WESTBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
WILLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	402
WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	7	3,190
WOODSTOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	

(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/ipeds/data/ipedsdatacenter/ipedsdatacenter.asp>; and NCES. School district geographic relationship files for the 119th Congress. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatacenter/ipedsdatacenter.asp>

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(continued)

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Congressional District #3			
ANSONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	5	2,533
BRANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	0	
DERBY SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	4	1,339
EAST HAVEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	8	2,875
HAMDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	11	9	4,344
MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	10	4,427
MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
NAUGATUCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	9	4,208
NEW HAVEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	46	46	20,263
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 16	1	0	
SEYMOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	0	
SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
STRATFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	13	6	2,344
WALLINGFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	0	
WATERBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	31	31	18,525
WEST HAVEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	9	5,885
Congressional District #4			
BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT	42	42	20,505
DANBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	22	12,823
FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
GREENWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	1	352
NORWALK SCHOOL DISTRICT	24	24	11,676
SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
STAMFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	22	16,307
TRUMBULL SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Congressional District #5			
BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	0	
DANBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	22	22	12,823
MERIDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	13	13	8,642
NEW BRITAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT	18	18	9,910
NEW MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	5	3,505
NORTH CANAAN SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
PLAINVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
PLYMOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	0	
SHARON SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
SIMSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
THOMASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
TORRINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	6	3,935
WATERBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT	31	31	18,525
WATERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT	6	0	
WOLCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST BRIDGEPORT ACADEMY DISTRICT	3	3	1,120
AMISTAD ACADEMY DISTRICT	3	3	1,122
AREA COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (ACES)	8	8	1,691
BRASS CITY CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	357
CAPITAL PREPARATORY HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	716
CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL (CREC)	13	13	6,593
CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	161

(continued)

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COMMON GROUND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	211
CONGREGATION K'TANA OF WATERBURY	2	0	
CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION & CAREER SYSTEM (CTECS)	17	17	11,093
EASTERN CONNECTICUT REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER	8	7	1,365
EDADVANCE	6	1	83
ELM CITY COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	757
GOODWIN UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (GUES)	3	3	1,181
GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	620
HIGHVILLE CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	438
INTEGRATED DAY CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	357
INTERDISTRICT SCHOOL FOR ARTS AND COMMUNICATION DISTRICT	1	1	270
KLINGBERG FAMILY CENTER	1	1	84
LEARN	4	0	
NEW BEGINNINGS INC FAMILY ACADEMY DISTRICT	1	1	442
NORWICH FREE ACADEMY	2	0	
PARK CITY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	375
STAMFORD CHARTER SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE DISTRICT	1	1	518
THE BRIDGE ACADEMY DISTRICT	1	1	266
THE GILBERT SCHOOL	1	1	440
YESHIVA GEDOLAH RABBINICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND	1	1	62

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