

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **KANSAS**, approximately **95,000** 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.

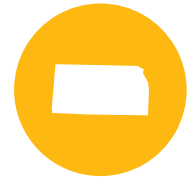
CEP Is a Win for Students, Families, and Schools

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:

177 SCHOOLS

in KANSAS adopted CEP. An additional 375 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 KANSAS, during the 2024–2025 school year:



295,003

children ate a school lunch and 117,200 children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



47

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional 109 school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



59,002

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 2021–2023 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 **KANSAS'** 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			
ATCHISON CO COMM SCHOOLS	1	0	
CANTON-GALVA	1	0	
CENTRE	1	0	
CHASE-RAYMOND	2	0	
CHEYLIN	1	0	
CIMARRON-ENSIGN	1	0	
DODGE CITY	13	0	
ELKHART	2	0	
ELLIS	1	0	
ELL-SALINE	1	0	
ELLSWORTH	2	0	
FAIRFIELD	1	0	
FT. LARNED	3	0	
GARDEN CITY	17	1	126
GEARY COUNTY SCHOOLS	11	3	575
GREAT BEND	7	0	
HAVEN	1	0	
HAYS	1	1	187
HILL CITY	2	0	
HOISINGTON	3	0	
HOLCOMB	4	0	
HUTCHINSON	10	0	
KINSLEY-OFFERLE	1	0	
KISMET-PLAINS	3	0	
LACROSSE	1	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
LAKIN	2	0	
LAWRENCE	12	1	76
LIBERAL	9	0	
LINCOLN	2	0	
LYONS	4	0	
MANHATTAN	9	5	1,251
MARYSVILLE	1	0	
MINNEOLA	1	0	
NORTH OTTAWA COUNTY	2	0	
NORTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	1	0	
OBERLIN	2	0	
OSKALOOSA	2	0	
PALCO	1	0	
PERRY	1	0	
REPUBLIC COUNTY	2	0	
RUSSELL COUNTY	3	0	
SALINA	14	0	
SEAMAN	4	2	495
SMITH CENTER	2	0	
SPEARVILLE	1	0	
STANTON COUNTY	2	0	
STOCKTON	1	0	
WABAUNSEE USD 329	1	0	
WASHINGTON COUNTY	2	0	
WESTERN PLAINS	1	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/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 **KANSAS'** 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
Congressional District #2			
ALTOONA-MIDWAY	2	2	147
ATCHISON	3	3	1,494
ATCHISON CO COMM SCHOOLS	1	0	
AUBURN WASHBURN	4	3	869
BAXTER SPRINGS	3	0	
BONNER SPRINGS	6	0	
BURLINGAME	1	0	
BURLINGTON	2	0	
CANEY VALLEY	1	0	
CENTRE	1	0	
CHANUTE	4	1	173
CHASE COUNTY	1	0	
COFFEYVILLE	3	0	
COLUMBUS	5	0	
CREST	1	0	
DONIPHAN WEST SCHOOLS	1	0	
DURHAM-HILLSBORO-LEHIGH	1	0	
ELK VALLEY	1	1	131
EMPORIA	6	0	
ERIE	3	3	433
EUREKA	2	0	
FORT SCOTT	5	4	1,169
FREDONIA	3	3	624
FRONTENAC	1	0	
GALENA	2	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
GARNETT	5	0	
GEARY COUNTY SCHOOLS	11	3	575
GIRARD	1	1	83
HUMBOLDT	2	2	612
INDEPENDENCE	5	5	1,698
IOLA	5	5	1,173
JAYHAWK	2	0	
KANSAS CITY	46	46	20,701
LABETTE COUNTY	5	0	
LANSING	1	0	
LAWRENCE	12	1	76
LEAVENWORTH	7	7	3,458
LEBO-WAVERLY	1	0	
LEROY-GRIDLEY	2	2	161
MANHATTAN	9	5	1,251
MARAIS DES CYGNES VALLEY	2	2	199
MARION	4	0	
MORRIS COUNTY	3	0	
NEODESHA	3	3	755
NORTH LYON COUNTY	1	0	
NORTHEAST	2	2	469
OSAGE CITY	1	0	
OSWEGO	3	0	
PARSONS	5	5	1,291
PEABODY-BURNS	2	0	
PERRY	1	0	

(continued)

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

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REMINGTON-WHITEWATER	2	0	
RIVERSIDE	1	0	
RIVERTON	1	0	
SEAMAN	4	2	495
SOUTHEAST	3	3	454
SOUTHERN LYON COUNTY	2	0	
TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	28	28	11,990
TURNER	8	0	
WABAUNSEE USD 329	1	0	
WEST FRANKLIN	3	0	
WOODSON	2	2	432
Congressional District #3			
BONNER SPRINGS	6	0	
CENTRAL HEIGHTS	2	0	
CREST	1	0	
DESOTO	1	0	
GARDNER EDGERTON	3	0	
GARNETT	5	0	
KANSAS CITY	46	46	20,701
LEBO-WAVERLY	1	0	
MARAIS DES CYGNES VALLEY	2	2	199
OLATHE	20	0	
OSAWATOMIE	3	1	582
OTTAWA	6	0	
SHAWNEE MISSION	23	0	
TURNER	8	0	
WEST FRANKLIN	3	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Congressional District #4			
ARKANSAS CITY	9	9	2,986
AUGUSTA	4	0	
BELLE PLAINE	2	0	
BLUESTEM	2	0	
CALDWELL	1	0	
CANEY VALLEY	1	0	
CEDAR VALE	1	1	136
CENTRAL	2	2	288
CHASE-RAYMOND	2	0	
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY COMMUNITY	2	2	378
CIRCLE	4	0	
CUNNINGHAM	1	0	
DERBY	6	3	935
DEXTER	1	1	301
DOUGLASS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
EL DORADO	6	0	
ELK VALLEY	1	1	131
EUREKA	2	0	
FAIRFIELD	1	0	
FLINTHILLS	2	0	
FREDONIA	3	3	624
FT. LARNED	3	0	
GREAT BEND	7	0	
HALSTEAD	2	0	
HAMILTON	1	0	

(continued)

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HAVEN	1	0	
HAYSVILLE	10	0	
INDEPENDENCE	5	5	1,698
KINSLEY-OFFERLE	1	0	
LEROY-GRIDLEY	2	2	161
LEWIS	1	0	
MAIZE	1	1	52
MULVANE	2	0	
PEABODY-BURNS	2	0	
PRATT	4	0	
REMYNGTON-WHITEWATER	2	0	
SOUTH BARBER	2	0	
UDALL	2	0	
VALLEY CENTER	6	0	
WEST ELK	1	1	376
WINFIELD	8	0	
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
BISHOP WARD HIGH SCHOOL	1	0	
HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL	1	1	151
HOLY NAME	1	0	
HOLY NAME SCHOOL	1	0	
HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY	1	1	268
KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	1	1	140
NORTHEAST KANSAS EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	1	1	27
OUR LADY OF UNITY	1	1	180

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
RESURRECTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL AT THE CATHEDRAL	1	1	303
SACRED HEART SCHOOL	1	0	
ST JOHN LUTHERAN	1	0	
ST MARGARET MARY ELEMENTARY	1	1	225
ST MARY SCHOOL - GARDEN CITY	1	0	
ST MATTHEW'S	1	1	147
ST PATRICK ELEMENTARY	1	0	
ST PATRICK SCHOOL	1	1	174
ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN	1	0	
URBAN PREPARATORY ACADEMY	1	1	127

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