

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **KENTUCKY**, approximately **256,000** 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:

1,157 SCHOOLS

in **KENTUCKY** adopted CEP. An additional **54** 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 **KENTUCKY**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



497,323

children ate a school lunch and **314,326** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



172

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **5** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



600,027

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 **KENTUCKY'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			
ADAIR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,585
ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,990
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,164
BALLARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	554
BOYLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,925
CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,899
CALLOWAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,936
CASEY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,204
CHRISTIAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	6,357
CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,511
CRITTENDEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	687
CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	991
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	12	12	6,319
FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	167
GRAVES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	3,962
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	12	12	6,452
HICKMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	730
HOPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	12	12	6,001
LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	399
LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	3,511
MARION COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,225
MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,877
MCCRACKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	5,399
METCALFE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	845
MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,857

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
RUSSELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	3,054
SIMPSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,937
TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	2,699
TODD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,908
TRIGG COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	608
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,063
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	558
WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	888
Congressional District #2			
BARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	3,604
BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,764
BULLITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	19	12	4,825
BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,147
CAVERNA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	1	1	340
DAVISS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	18	16	8,490
EDMONSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,024
GRAYSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	4,116
GREEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,664
HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,491
HARDIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	20	20	13,778
HART COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,470
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	83	83	50,245
LARUE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,286
LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	3,511
MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,386
MEADE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	3,681

(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>

The following table identifies the school districts in each of **KENTUCKY'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
MUHLBERG COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	5	2,409
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	4,395
OHIO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,867
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	22	22	16,824
Congressional District #3			
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	83	83	50,245
Congressional District #4			
BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	13	9	6,683
BRACKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,142
CAMPBELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	3	2,364
CARROLL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,920
CARTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	4,095
GALLATIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	845
GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,558
GREENUP COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,564
HARRISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,918
HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,602
KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	17	17	13,577
LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	1,982
MASON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,620
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	4,395
OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,491
OWEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,003
PENDLETON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,276
SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	6,319
SPENCER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	2	237
TRIMBLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	595

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Congressional District #5			
BATH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,011
BELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,447
BOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,815
BREATHITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,323
CARTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	4,095
CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	2,895
ELLIOTT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	893
FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	4,676
HARLAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,074
JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,989
JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,338
KNOTT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,058
KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	2,802
LAUREL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	15	15	8,507
LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,346
LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	957
LESLIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,046
LETCHER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,528
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,462
MAGOFFIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,986
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,490
MCCREARY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,953
MENIFEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	287
MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,435
OWSLEY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	744

(continued)

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(continued)

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,221
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	17	17	6,895
PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	13	13	7,698
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,190
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,386
WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	3,125
WHITLEY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	4,076
WOLFE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	1,092
Congressional District #6			
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,164
BATH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,011
BOURBON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,427
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,344
ESTILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,722
FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	56	50	31,888
FLEMING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,180
GARRARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,553
JESSAMINE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	10	10	7,353
MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	17	17	10,861
MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	2,050
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	4,022
NICHOLAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,073
POWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	5	2,186
SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	16	10	5,855
WOODFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	7	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	2,652
ASHLAND INDEPENDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,158
AUGUSTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	316
BALLARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	497
BARBOURVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	733
BARDSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	5	2,884
BARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	1,312
BATH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	905
BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	635
BEREA BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	1,094
BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	4	2,136
BOURBON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	207
BOWLING GREEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	8	4,587
BOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	233
BREATHITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	423
BULLITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	1	540
BURGIN BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	483
BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	66
CALLOWAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	161
CAMPBELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	2	436
CAMPBELLSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	1,347
CARLISLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	743
CARROLL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	1	191
CATHOLIC SCHOOL BD OF LEXINGTON	1	0	

(continued)

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(continued)

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL BD. OF COVINGTON	5	5	793
CAVERNA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	1	1	363
CHRISTIAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,779
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,999
CLOVERPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	289
CORBIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	7	2,883
COVINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	8	3,641
CRITTENDEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	715
CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	64
DANVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	4	1,792
DAWSON SPRINGS BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	567
DAYTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	914
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO DIVISION OF SCHOOL & COMM NUTRITION	1	1	93
EAST BERNSTADT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	532
ELIZABETHTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	5	2,492
EMINENCE BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	962
ERLANGER-ELSMERE BOARD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,431
ESTILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	479
FAIRVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	531
FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	8	8	3,123
FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	547
FRANKFORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	1,013
FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	460
FULTON INDEPENDENT	2	2	311
GALLATIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	580
GLASGOW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	5	2,423

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	872
HARDIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	876
HARLAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	313
HARLAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	894
HARRISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	25
HART COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	9
HAZARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,016
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	324
HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	417
HOPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	517
JACKSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	328
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	64	64	46,479
JENKINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	470
JESSAMINE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,085
JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY	1	1	118
KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	961
LARUE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	115
LAUREL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	109
LESLIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	473
LETCHER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	965
LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	778
LUDLOW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	828
LYON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	972
MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	505
MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	460
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	243

(continued)

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(continued)

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MAYFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	2,083
MCCRACKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,510
MCCREARY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	864
MEADE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,289
MENIFEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	651
MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	677
METCALFE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	703
MIDDLESBORO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,146
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	489
MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	279
MUHLENBERG COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	2,191
MURRAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	7	1,937
NATIVITY ACADEMY AT ST. BONIFACE	1	1	44
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	60
NEWPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,366
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING	2	2	138
OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	64
OWEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	712
OWENSBORO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	10	5,184
PADUCAH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	7	3,093
PAINTSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	763
PARIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	811
PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	2,237
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	600
PIKEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	1,173
PINEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	570

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	51
RACELAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,085
RED BIRD MISSIONS	1	1	168
ROBERTSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	487
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	613
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	35
RUSSELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	0	
RUSSELLVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	2	1,060
SCIENCE HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	477
SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	811
SIMPSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	77
SOMERSET INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,725
SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	199
ST. NICHOLAS ACADEMY	1	0	
ST. RITA CHURCH	1	1	259
TRIGG COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	3	3	1,384
TRIMBLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	551
WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	0	
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,318
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	2	2	1,230
WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	1,315
WILLIAMSBURG INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	1	848
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	915

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