

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **LOUISIANA**, approximately **248,000** 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:

1,230 SCHOOLS

in **LOUISIANA** adopted CEP. An additional **71** 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 **LOUISIANA**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



514,255

children ate a school lunch and **279,769** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



130

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **17** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



604,231

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 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 **LOUISIANA'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			
ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	25	12	7,673
JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS	68	68	42,000
LAFOURCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	28	25	8,923
LIVINGSTON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	42	42	26,185
PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	8	5	1,563
ST BERNARD PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	12	12	7,702
ST CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	15	9,024
TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	31	31	19,281
Congressional District #2			
ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	25	12	7,673
ASSUMPTION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	9	9	2,865
IBERVILLE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	8	8	4,149
JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS	68	68	42,000
LAFOURCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	28	25	8,923
ST BERNARD PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	12	12	7,702
ST CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	15	9,024
ST JAMES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	6	6	3,377
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	10	10	5,128
Congressional District #3			
CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	46	46	21,896
CAMERON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	4	4	763
IBERIA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	22	22	10,673
JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	12	12	5,365
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	41	41	29,238
LAFOURCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	28	25	8,923
ST MARTIN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	15	15	6,903

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
ST MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	21	21	7,470
TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	27	27	14,467
VERMILION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	20	20	9,199
Congressional District #4			
BEAUREGARD PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	11	11	5,370
BIENVILLE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	8	8	1,890
BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	25	25	16,512
CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	43	43	25,104
CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	46	46	21,896
CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	6	6	1,703
DESOTO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	7	7	3,658
EVANGELINE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	13	13	5,412
GRANT PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	7	7	2,575
JACKSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	5	5	2,008
LINCOLN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	11	11	5,154
MONROE CITY SCHOOL BOARD	19	19	8,144
RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	43	43	21,562
RED RIVER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	3	1,189
SABINE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	10	10	3,800
UNION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	3	1,684
VERNON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	18	18	8,066
WEBSTER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	14	14	5,078
WINN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	5	5	1,807
Congressional District #5			
ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	25	12	7,673
AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	7	7	3,475

(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 **LOUISIANA'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
CALDWELL PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	5	5	1,331
CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	5	5	941
CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
CITY OF BOGALUSA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3	3	1,468
CONCORDIA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	9	9	2,939
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	63	63	30,436
EAST CARROLL PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	3	757
EAST FELICIANA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	5	5	1,306
FRANKLIN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	6	6	2,496
IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS LA, INC.	2	2	1,871
LASALLE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	9	9	2,485
LIVINGSTON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	42	42	26,185
MADISON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	4	4	1,236
MONROE CITY SCHOOL BOARD	19	19	8,144
MOREHOUSE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	5	5	3,134
RICHLAND PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	11	11	2,741
ST HELENA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	3	1,047
TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	31	31	19,281
TENSAS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	2	2	332
WASHINGTON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	10	10	4,540
WEST CARROLL PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	3	1,557
WEST FELICIANA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	4	2	1,174
Congressional District #6			
AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	7	7	3,475
CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	43	43	25,104
CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	5	0	
CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT	4	4	1,051

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
DESOTO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	7	7	3,658
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	63	63	30,436
IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS LA, INC.	2	2	1,871
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	41	41	29,238
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	11	11	4,517
POINTE COUPEE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	5	5	2,437
RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	43	43	21,562
ST LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	33	33	11,422
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	10	10	4,254
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
ACADIA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	26	26	9,045
ALEXANDRIA DIOCESE	4	0	
ALGIERS CHARTER SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, INC. (ASCA)	2	2	1,440
ALLEN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	11	11	3,914
ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	2	728
ATHLOS ACADEMY OF JEFFERSON PARISH	1	1	1,083
AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	3	1,332
AVOYELLES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
BASIS BATON ROUGE	1	1	413
BISHOP MCMANUS SCHOOL	1	1	109
BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	3	3	1,241
BRIARFIELD ACADEMY	1	0	
BRICOLAGE ACADEMY	1	0	
CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	10	10	5,850
CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	12	12	5,612

(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 **LOUISIANA'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
CALDWELL PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	2	2	167
CAMERON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	1	1	350
CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION	1	1	757
COLLEGIATE ACADEMIES	6	6	2,995
COMMUNITY ACADEMIES OF NEW ORLEANS	2	2	743
COMMUNITY LEADERS ADVOCATING STUDENT SUCCESS	1	1	459
CRESCENT CITY SCHOOLS	3	3	2,581
D'ARBONNE WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.	1	0	
DELHI CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	632
DELTA CHARTER GROUP	1	1	480
DESOTO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	2	2	1,335
DISCOVERY HEALTH SCIENCES FOUNDATION, INC.	3	0	
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	9	9	3,797
EAST FELICIANA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	2	2	UNKNOWN
EDUCATION EXPLOSION, INC.	1	1	430
EINSTEIN CHARTER SCHOOL	4	4	1,428
ELAN ACADEMY, INC.	1	1	435
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA	1	1	152
FAMILY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	1	1	606
FIRSTLINE SCHOOLS, INC.	7	7	3,352
FRANKLIN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	1	1	124
FRENCH AND MONTESSORI EDUCATION, INC.	1	0	
GARDERE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	1	1	153
GEO PREP ACADEMY OF GREATER BATON ROUGE	4	4	1,938
GLENCOE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	483
GOOD SHEPHERD NATIVITY MISSION SCHOOL	1	1	272

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
GREAT HEARTS LOUISIANA INC	1	0	
HELIX NETWORK OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICES	3	3	791
HOSANNA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	1	1	451
IBERIA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	1	1	UNKNOWN
INSPIRE CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.	1	1	549
INSPIRE NOLA CHARTER SCHOOLS	7	7	5,191
INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	1	1	528
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LOUISIANA	1	1	1,073
JEFFERSON RISE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	721
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER PROGRAM (KIPP) N.O.	8	8	6,147
LAFAYETTE CHARTER FOUNDATION	2	1	1,704
LAFAYETTE DIOCESE	5	1	365
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	1	1	426
LAKE CHARLES CHARTER ACADEMY FOUNDATION, INC.	1	1	914
LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	1	0	
LINCOLN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	1	1	146
LINCOLN PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1	1	685
LOUISIANA KEY ACADEMY	3	2	534
LYCEE FRANCAIS DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS	1	0	
LYCEUM SCHOOLS, INC.	1	1	108
MCMILLIANS FIRST STEPS CHILD CARE	1	1	86
MORRIS JEFF COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	0	
NEW HARMONY HIGH INSTITUTE	1	1	347
NEW LIVING WORD CHURCH INC	1	1	61
NEW ORLEANS MILITARY/MARITIME ACADEMY	1	0	
NEW VISION LEARNING ACADEMY	1	1	228

(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 **LOUISIANA'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
NORTHSHORE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	432
OPELOUSAS FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER, INC.	1	1	260
ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOLS	7	7	3,531
OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	36	30	14,278
OUTREACH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (OCDC)	1	1	415
PELICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INC	1	1	683
POINTE COUPEE PRIVATE SCHOOL SYSTEM INC	1	0	
REDESIGN SCHOOLS LOUISIANA	2	2	332
RENEW-REINVENTING EDUCATION, INC.	3	3	2,290
ROOTED SCHOOL	1	1	139
SCHOOL FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES OF NEW ORLEANS, INC.	24	19	5,703
SHREVEPORT CHARTER FOUNDATION, INC. (CADD0 PARISH)	1	1	1,335
SHREVEPORT CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.	1	1	1,024
SHREVEPORT DIOCESE	2	2	292
SLAUGHTER COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	380
SOUTH LOUISIANA CHARTER FOUNDATION, INC.	2	2	1,280
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOL	1	0	
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CHARTER ACAD. FOUNDATION INC	2	2	1,375
ST CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	249
ST JOHN LUTHERAN	1	0	
ST LANDRY PRIMARY SCHOOL, INCL.	1	1	292
ST TAMMANY PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	55	55	36,476
SUCCESS PREPARATORY ACADEMY	1	1	453
TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD	1	1	UNKNOWN
THE DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM	3	3	574

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
THE MAX CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	100
THRIVE ACADEMY	1	1	169
TORAH DAY SCHOOL OF NEW ORLEANS DBA TORAH ACADEMY	1	1	88
VOICES FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & EDUCATION	1	1	422
WARREN EASTON CHARTER FOUNDATION, INC.	1	1	1,121
YOUNG AUDIENCES OF LOUISIANA	2	2	1,540
ZACHARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD	7	0	

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>