

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **MISSOURI**, approximately **314,000** 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:

444 SCHOOLS

in **MISSOURI** adopted CEP. An additional **630** 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 **MISSOURI**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



533,314

children ate a school lunch and **290,019** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



106

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **176** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



138,565

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 **MISSOURI'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			
FERGUSON-FLORISSANT R-II	25	0	
HAZELWOOD	33	28	12,685
JENNINGS	7	7	2,514
NORMANDY	9	8	2,701
RITENOUR	10	10	6,203
RIVERVIEW GARDENS	13	13	5,617
ST. LOUIS CITY	71	64	20,915
UNIVERSITY CITY	7	7	2,785
Congressional District #2			
CRAWFORD CO. R-I	3	3	891
HANCOCK PLACE	3	3	1,426
LONEDELL R-XIV	1	0	
RICHWOODS R-VII	1	1	190
SULLIVAN C-2	4	0	
UNION R-XI	3	0	
WARREN CO. R-III	4	0	
WRIGHT CITY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WARREN CO	4	0	
Congressional District #3			
BISMARCK R-V	2	2	489
BOONVILLE R-I	4	4	989
CAMDENTON R-III	7	0	
COLUMBIA 93	16	8	2,505
COOPER CO. R-IV	2	2	35
CRAWFORD CO. R-I	3	3	891
CRAWFORD CO. R-II	3	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
ELDON R-I	4	0	
FULTON 58	4	0	
JEFFERSON CITY	14	3	917
KINGSTON K-14	4	4	811
MARIES CO. R-II	2	0	
MEXICO 59	6	4	1,588
MONITEAU CO. R-V	1	0	
MORGAN CO. R-II	4	0	
NORTH CALLAWAY CO. R-I	3	0	
NORTH WOOD R-IV	1	0	
OSAGE CO. R-I	2	2	UNKNOWN
OSAGE CO. R-II	1	0	
POTOSI R-III	5	5	2,151
RICHWOODS R-VII	1	1	190
ST. JAMES R-I	3	0	
STEELVILLE R-III	3	0	
SULLIVAN C-2	4	0	
VALLEY R-VI	2	2	UNKNOWN
WARREN CO. R-III	4	0	
WELLSVILLE MIDDLETOWN R-I	2	0	
WEST ST. FRANCOIS CO. R-IV	4	0	
WRIGHT CITY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WARREN CO	4	0	
Congressional District #4			
CALHOUN R-VIII	2	1	62
CAMDENTON R-III	7	0	
CLIMAX SPRINGS R-IV	2	0	

(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 **MISSOURI'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)

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CLINTON	5	5	1,080
COLUMBIA 93	16	8	2,505
CROCKER R-II	2	2	269
DALLAS CO. R-I	3	0	
EL DORADO SPRINGS R-II	2	1	520
ELDON R-I	4	0	
EVERTON R-III	2	0	
FAIR PLAY R-II	4	3	355
GILLIAM C-4	1	0	
GOLDEN CITY R-III	2	0	
GREENFIELD R-IV	2	0	
HERMITAGE R-IV	3	3	191
HOLDEN R-III	1	0	
HUMANSVILLE R-IV	3	3	369
LACLEDE CO. C-5	1	1	433
LAMAR R-I	3	0	
LAQUEY R-V	3	0	
LEBANON R-III	5	0	
LEESVILLE R-IX	1	1	98
LIBERAL R-II	1	0	
LINCOLN R-II	2	1	UNKNOWN
MACKS CREEK R-V	2	0	
MALTA BEND R-V	2	2	89
MARION C. EARLY R-V	2	0	
MARSHALL	8	0	
MIAMI R-I	1	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
MONITEAU CO. R-V	1	0	
MORGAN CO. R-I	2	2	720
MORGAN CO. R-II	4	0	
NEVADA R-V	5	0	
NEWBURG R-II	2	0	
NIANGUA R-V	2	0	
NORTH CALLAWAY CO. R-I	3	0	
PETTIS CO. R-XII	1	1	127
PHELPS CO. R-III	1	0	
PLATO R-V	2	0	
PLEASANT HOPE R-VI	2	0	
RICH HILL R-IV	2	0	
RICHLAND R-IV	2	0	
ROSCOE C-1	1	0	
SEDALIA 200	10	0	
SHELDON R-VIII	2	0	
SLATER	2	2	368
STOUTLAND R-II	1	0	
SWEDEBORG R-III	1	0	
WARSAW R-IX	5	4	1,076
WHEATLAND R-II	2	0	
Congressional District #5			
CENTER 58	8	4	958
GRANDVIEW C-4	9	0	
HICKMAN MILLS C-1	16	12	4,256
INDEPENDENCE 30	28	0	

(continued)

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(continued)

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
KANSAS CITY 33	37	34	14,571
NORTH KANSAS CITY 74	17	0	
RAYTOWN C-2	18	0	
Congressional District #6			
ADAIR CO. R-I	2	1	135
BOSWORTH R-V	2	2	68
BRECKENRIDGE R-I	2	0	
BRUNSWICK R-II	2	0	
BUCKLIN R-II	2	0	
CAINSVILLE R-I	1	0	
CALLAO C-8	1	0	
CRAIG R-III	2	0	
ELSBERRY R-II	3	0	
GRUNDY CO R-V	1	0	
HANNIBAL 60	7	0	
INDEPENDENCE 30	28	0	
KIRKSVILLE R-III	3	0	
LIVINGSTON CO. R-III	1	0	
LOUISIANA R-II	2	0	
MADISON C-3	1	0	
MEXICO 59	6	4	1,588
MIDDLE GROVE C-1	1	0	
MILAN C-2	2	2	UNKNOWN
MOBERLY	6	0	
NORTH CALLAWAY CO. R-I	3	0	
NORTH DAVIESS R-III	2	2	83

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
NORTH KANSAS CITY 74	17	0	
NORTH MERCER CO. R-III	1	0	
RIDGEWAY R-V	2	0	
SOUTH HARRISON CO. R-II	2	0	
SPICKARD R-II	1	0	
ST JOSEPH	20	16	6,553
TRI-COUNTY R-VII	1	0	
WARREN CO. R-III	4	0	
WELLSVILLE MIDDLETOWN R-I	2	0	
WESTRAN R-I	2	0	
WRIGHT CITY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WARREN CO	4	0	
Congressional District #7			
AURORA R-VIII	4	0	
AVA R-I	3	0	
BLUE EYE R-V	2	0	
BRANSON R-IV	6	0	
CARTHAGE R-IX	7	0	
CASSVILLE R-IV	3	0	
CRANE R-III	2	0	
EXETER R-VI	2	0	
FORSYTH R-III	3	0	
GALENA R-II	2	2	461
GOLDEN CITY R-III	2	0	
HOLLISTER R-V	4	0	
JOPLIN SCHOOLS	16	0	
KIRBYVILLE R-VI	2	0	

(continued)

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(continued)

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MARION C. EARLY R-V	2	0	
MARIONVILLE R-IX	3	0	
MCDONALD CO. R-I	10	0	
MILLER R-II	2	0	
MONETT R-I	5	0	
NEOSHO SCHOOL DISTRICT	10	0	
PLEASANT HOPE R-VI	2	0	
REEDS SPRING R-IV	6	0	
SARCOXIE R-II	2	0	
SHELL KNOB 78	1	1	164
SOUTHWEST R-V	3	0	
SPARTA R-III	3	0	
SPRINGFIELD R-XII	42	0	
VERONA R-VII	1	0	
WESTVIEW C-6	1	0	
WHEATON R-III	2	0	
Congressional District #8			
ALTON R-IV	2	0	
ARCADIA VALLEY R-II	3	3	662
AVA R-I	3	0	
BAKERSFIELD R-IV	2	0	
BELL CITY R-II	2	0	
BELLEVIEW R-III	1	1	124
BERNIE R-XIII	2	0	
BISMARCK R-V	2	2	489
BUNKER R-III	2	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
CABOOL R-IV	3	3	758
CAMPBELL R-II	2	2	542
CAPE GIRARDEAU 63	8	8	3,762
CARUTHERSVILLE 18	3	3	1,061
CENTERVILLE R-I	1	1	57
CENTRAL R-III	4	0	
CHAFFEE R-II	1	1	367
CHARLESTON R-I	3	3	942
CLARKTON C-4	3	3	359
CLEARWATER R-I	3	0	
COUCH R-I	2	0	
DELTA C-7	2	0	
DELTA R-V	2	0	
DENT-PHELPS R-III	1	0	
DONIPHAN R-I	4	4	1,552
DORA R-III	2	0	
EAST CARTER CO. R-II	3	0	
EAST PRAIRIE R-II	6	3	306
EMINENCE R-I	2	2	265
FAIRVIEW R-XI	1	0	
GAINESVILLE R-V	2	0	
GIDEON 37	2	2	259
GREEN FOREST R-II	1	0	
GREENVILLE R-II	4	0	
HARTVILLE R-II	3	0	
HAYTI R-II	3	3	618

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(continued)

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HOLCOMB R-III	2	2	510
HOUSTON R-I	3	3	643
JUNCTION HILL C-12	1	0	
KENNETT 39	4	4	1,885
LESTERVILLE R-IV	2	0	
LICKING R-VIII	2	2	829
LUTIE R-VI	2	2	148
MALDEN R-I	2	2	994
MANES R-V	1	0	
MANSFIELD R-IV	2	0	
MARQUAND-ZION R-VI	2	2	143
MEADOW HEIGHTS R-II	2	0	
MOUNTAIN GROVE R-III	4	0	
MOUNTAIN VIEW-BIRCH TREE R-III	4	0	
NAYLOR R-II	2	0	
NEELYVILLE R-IV	3	0	
NELL HOLCOMB R-IV	1	0	
NEW MADRID CO. R-I	5	5	1,345
NEWBURG R-II	2	0	
NORTH PEMISCOT CO. R-I	2	2	251
NORTH ST. FRANCOIS CO. R-I	5	0	
NORTH WOOD R-IV	1	0	
NORWOOD R-I	2	0	
OAK HILL R-I	1	0	
OREGON-HOWELL R-III	2	0	
PEMISCOT CO. R-III	1	1	UNKNOWN

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
PHELPS CO. R-III	1	0	
PLAINVIEW R-VIII	1	0	
PLATO R-V	2	0	
POPLAR BLUFF R-I	9	6	1,581
PORTAGEVILLE	2	1	364
POTOSI R-III	5	5	2,151
PUXICO R-VIII	3	0	
RAYMONDVILLE R-VII	1	1	128
RICHARDS R-V	1	0	
RICHLAND R-I	2	0	
RIPLEY CO. R-III	1	0	
RIPLEY CO. R-IV	1	1	116
RISCO R-II	2	0	
SALEM R-80	5	4	791
SCOTT CITY R-I	3	0	
SCOTT CO. CENTRAL	2	2	302
SCOTT CO. R-IV	2	0	
SENATH-HORNERSVILLE C-8	3	3	752
SIKESTON R-6	8	8	3,400
SKYLINE R-II	1	0	
SOUTH IRON CO. R-I	2	0	
SOUTH PEMISCOT CO. R-V	3	3	640
SOUTHERN REYNOLDS CO. R-II	2	0	
SOUTHLAND C-9	2	2	265
ST. JAMES R-I	3	0	
STE. GENEVIEVE CO. R-II	1	0	

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SUCCESS R-VI	1	1	111
SUMMERSVILLE R-II	2	0	
THAYER R-II	2	0	
TWIN RIVERS R-X	3	0	
VALLEY R-VI	2	2	UNKNOWN
VAN BUREN R-I	2	0	
WEST PLAINS R-VII	5	0	
WEST ST. FRANCOIS CO. R-IV	4	0	
WILLOW SPRINGS R-IV	3	0	
WINONA R-III	2	0	
WOODLAND R-IV	3	0	
ZALMA R-V	2	2	239
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
ACADEMY FOR INTEGRATED ARTS	1	1	199
AGAPE CHILD DEVELOPMENT	1	0	
ALLEN VILLAGE	5	5	415
ATLAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	1	UNKNOWN
B. BANNEKER CHARTER ACADEMY	1	0	
BROOKSIDE CHARTER SCH	2	2	629
CARONDELET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	1	0	
CITIZENS OF THE WORLD CHARTER	1	0	
CONFLUENCE ACADEMIES	6	6	2,296
CROSSROADS CHARTER SCHOOLS	3	0	
DE LA SALLE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
EAGLE COLLEGE PREP ENDEAVOR	4	4	581

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
EWING MARION KAUFFMAN SCHOOL	2	2	923
FRONTIER SCHOOL OF INNOVATION	5	2	289
GENESIS SCHOOL INC	1	1	256
GORDON PARKS ELEM.	1	1	163
GRAND CENTER ARTS ACADEMY	2	0	
GUADALUPE CENTERS SCHOOLS	3	0	
HAWTHORN LEADERSHIP SCHL GIRLS	2	0	
HOGAN PREPARATORY ACADEMY	3	3	977
HOPE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	1	1	108
KANSAS CITY GIRLS PREP ACADEMY	1	1	UNKNOWN
KC INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	1	1	601
KIPP ST LOUIS	6	6	1,582
KIPP: ENDEAVOR ACADEMY	2	2	535
LA SALLE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
LEE A. TOLBERT COM. ACADEMY	1	1	462
LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY	3	3	613
LOYOLA ACADEMY	1	0	
MARIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL	1	0	
MOST HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL	1	0	
NORTH SIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	2	316
NOVA CENTER	1	0	
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SCH	1	0	
PATHWAY ACADEMY	1	0	
PRECLARUS MASTERY ACADEMY	1	0	
PREMIER CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
RIVER ROADS LUTHERAN SCH	1	0	

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SCUOLA VITA NUOVA	1	1	255
SPECIAL SCHOOL DST. ST. LOUIS CO.	5	4	469
ST LOUIS CATHOLIC ACADEMY	1	0	
ST LUKES LUTHERAN SCHOOL	1	0	
ST. LOUIS COLLEGE PREP	2	0	
ST. LOUIS LANG IMMERSION SCH	1	1	324
THE ARCH COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	0	
THE BIOME	1	0	
THE FREEDOM SCHOOL	1	0	
THE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL	1	1	UNKNOWN
UNIVERSITY ACADEMY	3	3	1,083

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