

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **NEBRASKA**, approximately **128,000** 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:

216 SCHOOLS

in NEBRASKA adopted CEP. An additional 449 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 NEBRASKA, during the 2024–2025 school year:

 **237,789**

children ate a school lunch and 84,503 children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²

 **49**

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional 153 school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.

 **92,254**

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 **NEBRASKA'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			
BANCROFT-ROSALIE SCHOOL	2	2	286
BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	0	
CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
CLARKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOL	7	0	
CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	0	
DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
DORCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
ELKHORN VALLEY SCHOOLS	1	0	
FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOL	9	0	
HOWELLS-DODGE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT	1	0	
HUMPHREY PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
LAKEVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	2	0	
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	61	23	11,396
LOGAN VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
LYONS-DECATUR N.E. SCHOOL	2	0	
MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	0	
NEBRASKA CITY SCHOOLS	4	0	
NEWMAN GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	0	
OAKLAND-CRAIG SCHOOLS	1	0	
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	99	99	53,863
PAPILLION-LA VISTA SCHOOL	7	5	1,674
PENDER PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
PLATTSMOUTH COMM. SCHOOLS	2	0	
SCHUYLER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	8	4	1,757
SCRIBNER-SNYDER SCHOOLS	2	0	
SEWARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
SHELBY-RISING CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
ST. EDWARD PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	179
STANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	2	0	
TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
WEeping WATER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
WEST POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
WILBER-CLATONIA PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
WISNER-PILGER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
Congressional District #2			
CEDAR BLUFFS PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
DOUGLAS COUNTY WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	2	0	
FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOL	9	0	
MEAD PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	0	
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	99	99	53,863
PAPILLION-LA VISTA SCHOOL	7	5	1,674
RALSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	1	227
SCHUYLER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	8	4	1,757
WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	6	2	1,027

(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>

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(continued)

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Congressional District #3			
ALLEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS	1	0	
ALLIANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	0	
ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
ANSELMO-MERNA PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
ANSLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	197
ARAPAHOE PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
ARCADIA PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
ARNOLD PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	1	187
AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
AXTELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	0	
BANCROFT-ROSALIE SCHOOL	2	2	286
BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL	1	1	150
BAYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	344
BEATRICE PUBLIC SCHOOL	5	0	
BERTRAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	0	
BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL	1	0	
BLUE HILL SCHOOL	1	0	
BRADY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	517
BROKEN BOW PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
BRUNING-DAVENPORT UNIFIED SYSTEM	4	0	
BURWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
CALLAWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
CENTRAL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
CENTRAL VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
CENTURA PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
CHADRON CITY SCHOOLS	4	0	
CHAMBERS PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
CHASE COUNTY SCHOOLS	1	0	
CODY-KILGORE SCHOOLS	3	2	164
COZAD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	4	0	
CRAWFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
CREEK VALLEY SCHOOLS/PRESCHOOL	2	0	
CREIGHTON COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	0	
CROSS COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	1	0	
DESHLER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
DISTRICT 11 AREA SCHOOLS	1	0	
DORCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
DUNDY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	2	291
ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	110
ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
ELKHORN VALLEY SCHOOLS	1	0	
ELM CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
EMERSON-HUBBARD SCHOOLS	2	0	
EUSTIS-FARNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
FAIRBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	

(continued)

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(continued)

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FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	4	0	
FILLMORE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	0	
FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	282
FULLERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
GARDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS	2	0	
GERING PUBLIC SCHOOL	5	0	
GIBBON PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
GORDON-RUSHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	543
GOTHENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL	27	19	9,860
HAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
HARVARD PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	213
HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7	0	
HAY SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	0	
HAYES CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	0	
HEMINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
HERSHEY PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
HIGH PLAINS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	0	
HITCHCOCK COUNTY SCHOOL	2	0	
HOLDREGE SCHOOLS	3	0	
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL	3	1	445
HUMBOLDT/TABLEROCK-STEINAUER	3	0	
ISANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	1	1	250
JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	4	0	
JOHNSON-BROCK PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
KEARNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	4	837
KEYA PAHA COUNTY SCHOOLS	1	0	
KIMBALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	2	402
LEWISTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL	1	1	177
LEXINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7	0	
LEYTON PUBLIC SCHOOL	4	2	142
LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
LOGAN VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
LOUP CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
LOUP COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	1	91
LYONS-DECATUR N.E. SCHOOL	2	0	
MAXWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
MAYWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOL	4	0	
MCCOOL JUNCTION PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
MEDICINE VALLEY SCHOOL	2	0	
MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
MINATARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	160
MINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
MORRILL PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
MULLEN PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	163
NEBRASKA CITY SCHOOLS	4	0	
NELIGH-OAKDALE SCHOOL	3	0	
NEWMAN GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
NIOBARA PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	209
NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	0	

(continued)

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NORTH PLATTE PUBLIC SCHOOL	11	6	1,292
NORTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
OAKLAND-CRAIG SCHOOLS	1	0	
OGALLALA PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
O'NEILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
ORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
OVERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
PAWNEE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
PAXTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL	2	0	
PENDER PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
PLAINVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
POTTER-DIX PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
RAVENNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
RED CLOUD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	0	
ROCK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
SARGENT PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	3	738
SHELBY-RISING CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
SHELTON PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL	6	0	
SIOUX COUNTY SCHOOLS	1	0	
SOUTH PLATTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
SOUTH SIOUX CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #11	8	1	239
SOUTHERN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	383
SOUTHERN VALLEY SCHOOLS	2	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
ST. EDWARD PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	179
STAPLETON PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
SUMNER EDDYVILLE MILLER SCHOOL	2	0	
SUPERIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	382
SUTHERLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	0	
SUTTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
TEKAMAH-HERMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
THAYER CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	1	0	
THEDFORD RURAL HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	53
TWIN RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
UMO 'HO' NATION PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	629
VALENTINE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	3	0	
WAKEFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	2	0	
WALTHILL PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	280
WAUNETA-PALISADE PUBLIC SCHOOL	3	1	227
WAYNE PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
WEST HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
WHEELER CENTRAL SCHOOLS	2	0	
WILBER-CLATONIA PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
WILCOX-HILDRETH SCHOOL	4	2	214
WINNEBAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL	1	1	534
WISNER-PILGER PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
WOOD RIVER RURAL SCHOOLS	3	0	
YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	0	

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Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
AINSWORTH CITY SCHOOL	1	0	
ALL SAINTS SCHOOL - OMAHA	1	1	151
BOONE CENTRAL DISTRICT 1	1	0	
DESHLER LUTHERAN SCHOOL	1	0	
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL	1	0	
HOLY NAME SCHOOL	1	1	261
JESUIT ACADEMY	1	1	48
LAWRENCE-NELSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
NELSON MANDELA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	1	207
RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL	2	0	
SACRED HEART SCHOOL - OMAHA	1	1	138
SANDY CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL	1	1	20
ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION SCHOOL	1	1	56
ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL	1	0	
ST. PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL	1	1	259
ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL	1	0	
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL- MADISON	1	0	
ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL - PLAINVIEW	1	0	

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