

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **NEW JERSEY**, approximately **251,000** 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.

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.

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:

343 SCHOOLS

in NEW JERSEY adopted CEP. An additional 691 schools were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.

In NEW JERSEY, during the 2024–2025 school year:

 **771,759**

children ate a school lunch and 376,781 children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²

 **83**

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional 214 school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.

 **144,466**

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 **NEW JERSEY'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			
BELLMAWR BD OF ED	1	0	
BERLIN TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
BLACK HORSE PIKE REG BD OF ED	1	0	
BROOKLAWN BD OF ED	1	0	
CAMDEN CITY BD OF ED	32	29	10,588
CLEMENTON BD OF ED	1	0	
COLLINGSWOOD BD OF ED	1	0	
DEPTFORD BD OF ED	1	0	
GATEWAY REG BD OF ED	1	0	
GLASSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	0	
GLOUCESTER CITY BD OF ED	5	5	2,493
GLOUCESTER TWP BD OF ED	5	0	
LAWNSIDE BD OF ED	1	1	349
LINDENWOLD BOE	5	0	
MAGNOLIA BD OF ED	1	0	
MAPLE SHADE BD OF ED	1	0	
MONROE TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
PAULSBORO BD OF ED	3	3	1,249
PENNSAUKEN TWP BD ED	9	0	
PINE HILL BD OF ED	4	0	
SOMERDALE BD OF ED	1	0	
WINSLOW TWP BD OF ED	8	0	
WOODBURY BD OF ED	5	0	
WOODYLYNNE BD OF ED	1	1	425

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
Congressional District #2			
ABSECON BD OF ED	1	0	
ATLANTIC CITY BD OF ED	11	0	
BRIDGETON CITY BD OF ED	9	9	5,829
BUENA REG BD OF ED	2	0	
CLAYTON BD OF ED	2	0	
COMMERCIAL TWP BD OF ED	2	1	470
CUMBERLAND REG BD OF ED	1	0	
DEERFIELD TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
DOWNE TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
EGG HARBOR CITY BD OF ED	2	0	
EGG HARBOR TWP BD OF ED	3	0	
ELSINBORO BD OF ED	1	0	
FAIRFIELD TWP BD OF ED	1	1	520
GALLOWAY TWP BD OF ED	2	1	321
HAMILTON TWP BD OF ED	3	0	
LAWRENCE TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
LITTLE EGG HARBOR BD ED	1	0	
LOWER TWP BD OF ED	4	0	
MAURICE RIVER BD OF ED	1	0	
MIDDLE TWP BD OF ED	3	0	
MILLVILLE BD OF ED	9	0	
OCEAN TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
PENNS GR CNYS PT RG BOE	5	0	
PENNSVILLE BD OF ED	2	0	
PLEASANTVILLE PUBLIC SCH	6	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>

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(continued)

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QUINTON BD OF ED	1	0	
SALEM CITY BD OF ED	3	3	1,249
SOMERS POINT	2	0	
UPPER DEERFIELD TWP BD OF ED	3	0	
VENTNOR CITY BD OF ED	1	0	
VINELAND BD OF ED	13	0	
WEYMOUTH TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
WILDWOOD BD OF ED	4	4	775
WOODBINE BD OF ED	1	1	254
Congressional District #3			
BEVERLY CITY BD OF ED	1	0	
BURLINGTON CITY BD OF ED	4	0	
FLORENCE TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
FREEHOLD BORO BD OF ED	3	0	
HAMILTON TWP BD OF ED	7	2	305
MOUNT HOLLY BD OF ED	3	0	
NEW HANOVER TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
PEMBERTON TWP BD OF ED	5	0	
WILLINGBORO BD OF ED	8	0	
Congressional District #4			
BELMAR BD OF ED	1	0	
BRICK TWP BD OF ED	1	0	
JACKSON TWP BD OF ED	2	0	
LAKEHURST BD OF ED	1	0	
LAKESIDE BD OF ED	9	0	
MANCHESTER TWP BD OF ED	2	0	

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
NEPTUNE TWP BD OF ED	6	0	
OCEAN GATE BD OF ED	1	0	
SEASIDE HEIGHTS BD OF ED	1	1	177
TOMS RIVER BD OF ED	4	4	1,984
Congressional District #5			
ENGLEWOOD BD OF ED	3	0	
HACKENSACK BD OF ED	4	0	
HAMBURG BOR BD OF ED	1	0	
NEWTON BD OF ED	2	0	
PALISADES PARK BD OF ED	1	0	
Congressional District #6			
ASBURY PARK BD OF ED	4	4	1,357
BRADLEY BEACH BD OF ED	1	0	
CARTERET BD OF ED	5	0	
HIGHLAND PARK BD OF ED	1	0	
KEANSBURG BD OF ED	4	4	1,528
KEYPORT BD OF ED	1	0	
LONG BRANCH BD OF ED	8	0	
NEPTUNE CITY BD OF ED	1	0	
NEPTUNE TWP BD OF ED	6	0	
NEW BRUNSWICK BD OF ED	16	0	
PERTH AMBOY BD OF ED	16	0	
RED BANK BORO BD OF ED	2	0	
SOUTH AMBOY BD OF ED	2	0	
WOODBURGH BD OF ED	1	0	

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(continued)

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Congressional District #7			
HAMPTON BORO BD OF ED	1	0	
HUNTERDON CENTRAL REGIONAL HS BOE	1	0	
LINDEN BD OF ED	5	0	
PHILLIPSBURG BD OF ED	4	0	
RAHWAY BD OF ED	3	0	
Congressional District #8			
BAYONNE BD OF ED	12	0	
EAST NEWARK BD OF ED	1	0	
ELIZABETH BD OF ED	44	0	
GUTTENBERG BD OF ED	1	0	
HARRISON BD OF ED	4	0	
HOBOKEN BD OF ED	3	0	
JERSEY CITY BD OF ED	44	29	13,640
KEARNY BD OF ED	3	0	
NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	53	0	
NORTH BERGEN BD OF ED	7	0	
UNION CITY BD OF ED	12	0	
WEST NEW YORK BD OF ED	10	0	
Congressional District #9			
CARL E RUTH REG BD OF ED	1	0	
CLIFFSIDE PARK BD OF ED	2	0	
CLIFTON BD OF ED	9	0	
ELMWOOD PARK BD OF ED	2	0	
FAIRVIEW BD OF ED	4	0	
GARFIELD BD OF ED	6	3	768

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
HALEDON BD OF ED	1	1	1,006
HAWTHORNE BD OF ED	1	0	
KEARNY BD OF ED	3	0	
PASSAIC CITY BD OF ED	21	21	11,982
PASSAIC COUNTY MANCHESTER REG BOE	1	0	
PATERSON BD OF ED	44	41	22,054
PROSPECT PARK BD OF ED	2	2	813
WAYNE BD OF ED	1	0	
WOODLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	
Congressional District #10			
EAST ORANGE BD OF ED	22	21	8,911
HILLSIDE BD OF ED	1	0	
JERSEY CITY BD OF ED	44	29	13,640
LINDEN BD OF ED	5	0	
NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	53	0	
ORANGE BD OF ED	13	13	5,500
ROSELLE BD OF ED	6	0	
UNION BD OF ED	1	0	
WEST ORANGE BD OF ED	2	0	
Congressional District #11			
BELLEVILLE BD OF ED	5	0	
BLOOMFIELD BD OF ED	3	0	
CLIFTON BD OF ED	9	0	
DOVER TOWN BD OF ED	4	0	
WAYNE BD OF ED	1	0	
WOODLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1	0	

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(continued)

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Congressional District #12			
BOUND BROOK BD OF ED	1	0	
EWING TWP BD OF ED	3	0	
FRANKLIN TWP BD OF ED	2	0	
NORTH BRUNSWICK BD OF ED	1	0	
NORTH PLAINFIELD BD OF ED	2	0	
PLAINFIELD BD OF ED	13	0	
TRENTON BD OF ED	25	25	13,395
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
ACADEMY CHARTER HS	1	0	
ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP CS	2	0	
ACHIEVERS EARLY COLLEGE PREP CS	1	0	
ARCHWAY PROGRAMS	2	2	218
ATLANTIC CO SPEC SERV	1	0	
ATLANTIC CO VOC SCHOOL	1	0	
BAIS MALKA OF LAKEWOOD INC	1	0	
BAIS REUVEN KAMENITZ	1	1	531
BAIS RIVKA ROCHEL	4	2	1,607
BAIS YAAKOV HIGH SCHOOL OF LAKEWOOD	1	0	
BANCROFT NEUROHEALTH	1	0	
BELOVED COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL	2	0	
BENJAMIN BANNECKER PREP CHARTER SCHOOL	2	0	
BERGEN CO SPEC SERV	4	0	
BNOS DEVORAH	1	0	
BNOS MELECH OF LAKEWOOD	2	2	1,710

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
BNOS TZIPPA INC.	1	0	
BROOKFIELD ACADEMY, INC	2	0	
BURCH CHARTER SCH OF EX	1	1	310
BURL CO SP SERV SCH DIST	1	0	
CAMDEN CO TECHNICAL SCHOOL	1	0	
CAMDENS PROMISE CHARTER	4	0	
CAPE MAY SP SERV	2	0	
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK	1	0	
CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS	3	0	
CENTRAL JERSEY COLLEGE PREP CHARTER	2	0	
CEREBRAL PALSY CENTER OF ESSEX	1	0	
CEREBRAL PALSY LEAGUE OF	1	0	
CEREBRAL PALSY NORTH JERSEY DBA PILLAR CARE CONTINUUM	1	0	
CHARTER TECH HS	1	0	
CHEDER TORAS ZEV	2	2	980
COLLEGE ACHIEVE CENTRAL CHARTER SCHOOL	2	0	
COLLEGE ACHIEVE GREATER ASBURY PARK CS	3	3	568
COLLEGE ACHIEVE PATERSON CS	5	5	1,589
COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL OF PATERSON	2	2	891
COMPASS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	178
CONG NACHLAS YISROEL	1	1	130
CONG SANZ OF LAKEWOOD INC	2	0	
CONGREGATION AHAVAS CHESED	1	0	
CONGREGATION DAMESEK ELIEZER	1	0	
CONGREGATION KNESSSES BAIS AARON, INC.	1	0	
CONGREGATION MACHZIKEI HADAS	2	0	

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CONGREGATION MEOROS NOSSON	3	3	662
CONGREGATION RACHMISTRIVKA	3	0	
CONGREGATION YETEV LEV	1	1	212
CPC BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE	1	1	93
CRESTHAVEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	2	0	
DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
DR LENA EDWARDS ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	377
EAST ORANGE COMM CHARTER	4	0	
EDUCATIONAL SERV COMM OF NJ	2	0	
EMPOWERMENT ACAD CHARTER SCHOOL	3	0	
ESSEX CO VOC BD OF ED	3	0	
ESSEX REG ED SERV COMM	3	3	79
ESSEX VALLEY SCHOOL	1	1	113
ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
FEDCAP REHABILITATION SERVICES	1	1	52
FOUNDATION ACADEMY CHARTER	2	0	
GARFIELD PARK ACADEMY	1	1	160
GLOUCESTER CO SPEC SERV	3	0	
GREAT OAKS LEGACY CHARTER SCHOOL	6	1	775
GREATER BRUNSWICK CHARTER	1	0	
HOBOKEN CHARTER	1	0	
HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER	1	0	
HOPE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	127
HUDSON ARTS & SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER	1	0	
JC GOLDEN DOOR CHARTER SC	1	0	

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JERSEY CITY COMM CHARTER	2	2	569
JOHN P. HOLLAND CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
JOHN PAUL II REG	1	0	
KINDLE EDUCATION PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
KIPP COOPER NORCROSS ACADEMY AT LANNING SQUARE	5	5	2,269
KNESSES BAIS LEVI	1	1	92
LAKEWOOD CHEDER SCHOOL	3	0	
LEAP ACADEMY UNIVERSITY	4	4	1,567
LEARNING CENTER	1	0	
LEARNING INSTITUTE OF UNION CITY INC.	2	2	195
LINK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL	2	0	
MADRASATU AHLIS SUNNAH	1	0	
MAK SCHOOL FOR DEAF	1	0	
MARIA L. VARISCO/ROGERS	1	1	582
MARION P THOMAS CHARTER	4	4	1,393
MEIRAS BAIS YAAKOV INC	1	0	
MERCER CO SPEC SERV SCH D	4	0	
MESIFTA MEOR HTORAH A NJ NONPROFIT CORPORATION	1	1	105
MESORAS HATORAH INC	1	1	181
MILLVILLE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL	3	3	875
MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COM	1	0	
NEFESH HACHAIM	1	0	
NEW HORIZONS COMM CHARTER	1	1	343
NEWARK EDUCATORS CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	154
NJ DEPT CHILDREN & FAMILY	12	0	
NORTH HUDSON ACADEMY	1	0	

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NORTH JERSEY ELKS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AGENCY	2	0	
NORTH STAR ACADEMY	13	0	
NORTHWEST ESSEX COMM	1	0	
OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
OCEAN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES/OCEAN ACADEMY	1	0	
OHR AVRAHAM CHAIM INC	1	1	131
PACE CHARTER-HAMILTON	1	0	
PASSAIC ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL	8	8	2,056
PASSAIC CO VOC BD OF ED	1	0	
PATERSON ARTS & SCIENCES CHARTER SCHOOL	5	5	1,319
PATERSON CHARTER SCI TECH	4	4	1,660
PAUL ROBESON CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
PEOPLES ACHIEVE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL	2	2	761
PHILIPS ACAD CS (NEWARK)	2	0	
PHILIPS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF PATERSON	3	1	600
PRIDE ACADEMY CHARTER	1	0	
PRINCIPLE ACADEMY CHARTER	1	1	452
RABBINICAL COLLEGE	1	1	276
ROBERT TREAT ACADEMY	2	0	
ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL	1	1	278
SACRED HEART SCHOOL	1	0	
SACRED HEART SCHOOL	1	1	165
SALEM CO SPEC SERV	2	2	121
SHIRAS CHAIM	1	1	658
SOMERSET CO ED SERV COMM	1	1	154

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SOUTH BERGEN JOINTURE COM	4	0	
ST JOSEPH SCHOOL	1	0	
ST. JOSEPH S SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND	1	0	
SUNN ED. RESOURCES DBA CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY	1	1	46
TALMUD TORAH OF LAKEWOOD	1	1	466
TALMUD TORAH TOLDOS YAKOV YOSEF	1	0	
TEAM ACADEMY CHARTER	12	12	6,299
THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION NJ INC	1	0	
TIFERES BAIS YAAKOV	1	0	
TORAS IMECHA	2	0	
TRENTON STEM TO CIVICS CS	2	0	
UNION CO ED SERVICES COMM	4	0	
UNION CO TEAMS CHARTER	1	0	
UNITED TALMUDICAL ACADEMY OF LAKEWOOD INC	2	0	
UNIVERSITY ACAD CHARTER	1	0	
VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL	1	0	
WESTBRIDGE ACADEMY	1	0	
WINDSOR PREP	1	0	
WINDSOR SCHOOL	1	0	
YESHIVA CHAYEI OLAM	1	1	67
YESHIVA GEDOLAH OF BRICK	1	0	
YESHIVA MKOR CHAIM	1	1	91
YESHIVA NACHLEI TORAH INC.	1	0	
YESHIVA PHILIP HIRTH	1	0	
YESHIVA SHAAH HATALMUD	1	0	
YESHIVA TORAS MENACHEM	1	0	

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YESHIVA TORAS YISROEL	1	0	
YESHIVA YAAROS DEVASH	1	1	105
YESHIVA YESODEI HATORAH	2	1	53
YESHIVAS LEKACH TOV INC	1	1	25
YESHIVAS OHR HATORAH, INC	1	1	879
YESHIVAS OHR OLAM	1	1	151
YESHIVAS OHR YISSOCHOR ACAD	1	1	24
YESHIVAT OR HACHAIM	1	0	
YESHIVAT YAGDIL TORAH INC	1	0	
YOUTH CONSULTATION SERV	2	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>