

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **VIRGINIA**, approximately **291,000** 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:

1,253 SCHOOLS

in **VIRGINIA** adopted CEP.

An additional **245** schools were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.

In **VIRGINIA**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



753,474

children ate a school lunch and **431,629** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



124

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools. An additional **9** school districts had schools that were eligible to adopt CEP but did not participate.



711,583

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 **VIRGINIA'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			
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	51	42	38,981
COLONIAL BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	640
ESSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,219
GLOUCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	8	4,968
HANOVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	3	1,649
HENRICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	53	49	32,100
KING AND QUEEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	656
KING WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	0	
LANCASTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	641
MATHEWS COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	916
MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,184
NEW KENT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	0	
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,208
RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	1,387
WEST POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	849
WESTMORELAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,561
WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	8	5,109
YORK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	0	
Congressional District #2			
ACCOMACK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	11	11	4,776
CHESAPEAKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	31	31	23,463
FRANKLIN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	1,021
ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9	5	2,286
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,323
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	2,461

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
SUFFOLK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	20	20	14,415
VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	62	39	22,796
Congressional District #3			
CHESAPEAKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	31	31	23,463
HAMPTON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	32	32	19,483
NEWPORT NEWS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	43	43	25,861
NORFOLK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	48	48	26,651
PORTSMOUTH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	22	22	12,925
Congressional District #4			
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,414
CHARLES CITY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	546
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	51	42	38,981
COLONIAL HEIGHTS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	2,949
DINWIDDIE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7	7	4,251
GREENSVILLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	2,065
HENRICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	53	49	32,100
HOPEWELL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	3,952
PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	8	4,577
PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	0	
RICHMOND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	47	47	20,689
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	2,461
SURRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	688
SUSSEX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,038
Congressional District #5			
ALBEMARLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	9	4,247
AMELIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,592

(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 **VIRGINIA'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
AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	3,940
APPOMATTOX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	2,286
BEDFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	13	5,138
BUCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,907
CAMPBELL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	14	14	7,807
CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,657
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9	9	4,427
CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,271
DANVILLE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	13	5,386
FLUVANNA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	3,361
GOOCHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	0	
HALIFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	4,587
HANOVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	3	1,649
LOUISA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	5,117
LUNENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,610
LYNCHBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	20	20	7,617
MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	3,896
NELSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,496
NOTTOWAY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,806
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	18	18	7,804
POWHATAN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,888
Congressional District #6			
ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	2,850
AUGUSTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	19	19	10,127
BATH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	510
BOTETOURT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	11	2	409

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
BUENA VISTA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	853
CLARKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	0	
FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	20	9	3,974
HARRISONBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	6,774
HIGHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
LEXINGTON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	0	
PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	8	3,062
ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	26	26	13,335
ROANOKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	17	10	5,051
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	2,472
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	23	14	5,419
SALEM CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	2	814
SHENANDOAH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9	9	5,508
STAUNTON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	2,719
WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9	9	5,128
WAYNESBORO CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7	7	3,051
WINCHESTER CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7	7	4,193
Congressional District #7			
ALBEMARLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	9	4,247
CAROLINE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	4,582
CULPEPER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	8,362
FREDERICKSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	3,616
GREENE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	2,896
KING GEORGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	1	745
MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,606
ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	5,068

(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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PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	68	68	59,490
SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	27	24	18,433
STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	26	9	6,151
Congressional District #8			
ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	16	10	11,399
ARLINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	16	9	6,907
Congressional District #9			
FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	89	47	36,673
BEDFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	13	5,138
BLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	792
BRISTOL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	2,143
BUCHANAN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8	8	2,469
CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	3,479
CRAIG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	486
DICKENSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,855
FLOYD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,766
FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	12	6,176
GALAX CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3	3	1,412
GILES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	2,258
GRAYSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6	6	1,585
HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	13	6,951
LEE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10	10	2,763
MARTINSVILLE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5	5	1,838
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	6	1,983
NORTON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	808
PATRICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7	7	2,082

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
PULASKI COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7	7	3,968
RADFORD CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	1,630
ROANOKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	17	10	5,051
RUSSELL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9	9	3,367
SCOTT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	13	3,414
SMYTH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	13	3,969
TAZEWELL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	13	5,262
WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15	15	6,677
WISE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	11	11	5,568
WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	12	12	3,745
Congressional District #10			
FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	89	47	36,673
FAUQUIER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	13	2	320
LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	26	11	6,645
MANASSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9	9	7,707
MANASSAS PARK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4	4	3,459
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	68	68	59,490
RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2	2	767
Congressional District #11			
FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	89	47	36,673
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
CHURCH HILL ACADEMY	1	1	57
CRISTO REY RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL	1	1	205
ELIJAH HOUSE ACADEMY	1	1	180
ST. ANDREWS SCHOOL	1	1	82

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