

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND LEARNING

In **WEST VIRGINIA**, approximately **77,000** 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:

626 SCHOOLS

in **WEST VIRGINIA** adopted CEP. An additional **5** 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 **WEST VIRGINIA**, during the 2024–2025 school year:



168,147

children ate a school lunch and **134,532** children ate a school breakfast on an average school day.²



55

school districts adopted CEP for some or all schools representing **100 percent** of eligible school districts adopting CEP for some or all of their schools.



238,455

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 **WEST 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			
BOONE CO BD OF EDUCATION	11	11	3,080
BRAXTON CO BD OF EDUCATION	8	8	1,644
CABELL CO BD OF EDUCATION	26	26	11,338
CALHOUN CO BD OF EDUCATION	3	3	853
CLAY CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,536
FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	4,850
GILMER CO BD OF EDUCATION	2	2	761
GREENBRIER CO BD OF EDUCATION	13	13	4,498
JACKSON CO BD OF EDUCATION	12	12	4,021
KANAWHA CO BD OF EDUCATION	64	64	23,044
LINCOLN CO BD OF EDUCATION	8	8	2,820
LOGAN CO BD OF EDUCATION	17	17	4,761
MASON CO BD OF EDUCATION	10	10	3,626
MCDOWELL CO BD OF EDUCATION	9	9	2,373
MERCER CO BD OF EDUCATION	24	24	8,388
MINGO CO BD OF EDUCATION	9	9	3,540
MONROE CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,596
NICHOLAS CO BD OF EDUCATION	13	13	3,382
PENDLETON CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	875
POCAHONTAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	5	5	910
PUTNAM CO BD OF EDUCATION	21	16	4,517
RALEIGH CO BD OF EDUCATION	26	26	10,494
ROANE CO BD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,675
SUMMERS CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,188
WAYNE CO BD OF EDUCATION	18	18	6,102

School District	Number of CEP-Eligible Schools	Number of CEP-Participating Schools	Students Enrolled in CEP-Participating Schools
WEBSTER CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,079
WIRT CO BD OF EDUCATION	3	3	937
WYOMING CO BD OF EDUCATION	13	13	3,394
Congressional District #2			
BARBOUR CO BD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,013
BERKELEY CO BD OF EDUCATION	31	31	20,015
BROOKE CO BD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,325
DODDRIDGE CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,142
GRANT CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,618
HAMPSHIRE CO BD OF EDUCATION	7	7	2,694
HANCOCK CO BD OF EDUCATION	7	7	3,401
HARDY CO BD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,241
HARRISON CO BD OF EDUCATION	22	22	9,698
JEFFERSON CO BD OF EDUCATION	16	16	8,406
LEWIS CO BD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,296
MARION CO BD OF EDUCATION	19	19	7,162
MARSHALL CO BD OF EDUCATION	13	13	4,164
MINERAL CO BD OF EDUCATION	10	10	3,944
MONONGALIA CO BD OF EDUCATION	17	17	11,257
MORGAN CO BD OF EDUCATION	6	6	2,183
OHIO CO BD OF EDUCATION	14	14	4,872
PLEASANTS CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,049
PRESTON CO BD OF EDUCATION	10	10	3,872
RANDOLPH CO BD OF EDUCATION	13	13	3,494
RITCHIE CO BD OF EDUCATION	5	5	1,225
TAYLOR CO BD OF EDUCATION	5	5	2,162

(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>

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(continued)

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TUCKER CO BD OF EDUCATION	3	3	934
TYLER CO BD OF EDUCATION	4	4	1,203
UPSHUR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	9	9	3,592
WETZEL CO BD OF EDUCATION	8	8	2,220
WOOD CO BD OF EDUCATION	24	24	11,319
Unassigned School Districts			
Not all school districts could be matched to congressional districts due to data inconsistencies			
FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	1	1	535
LEWIS CO BD OF EDUCATION	1	1	137

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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/ipeds/data/ipedsfiles.asp>; and NCES. School district geographic relationship files for the 119th Congress. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsfiles.asp>