



Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools

School Year 2023–2024

DECEMBER 2024 | WWW.FRAC.ORG

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Acknowledgments

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) gratefully acknowledges the dedicated support of its work to expand and improve the school meals programs from the following:

- ▶ Annie E. Casey Foundation
- ▶ The From Now On Fund of the Tides Foundation
- ▶ General Mills, Inc.
- ▶ Kaiser Permanente National Community Benefit Fund at The East Bay Community Foundation
- ▶ Kellanova
- ▶ Newman's Own Foundation

This report was written by Erin Kennedy Hysom and Crystal FitzSimons of the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). The findings and conclusions presented in this report are those of FRAC alone.

For research citation: Hysom, E.K., & FitzSimons, C. (2024). *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools — School Year 2023–2024*. Food Research & Action Center. <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/CEP-Report-2024.pdf>

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About FRAC

The Food Research & Action Center improves the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling against poverty-related hunger in the United States through advocacy, partnerships, and by advancing bold and equitable policy solutions. For more information about FRAC, or to [sign up](#) for FRAC's e-newsletters, go to www.frac.org.



Executive Summary

Community Eligibility Participation 2023–2024

 **7,717**

school districts had one or more schools adopting CEP, an increase of **1,298** school districts, or **20.2 percent**, from the 2022–2023 school year.

 **74.3 percent**
of eligible school districts adopted CEP.

 **47,766**

schools adopted CEP, an increase of **7,531** schools, or **18.7 percent**, from the previous school year.

 **84.7 percent**
of eligible schools adopted CEP.

 **23.6 million**

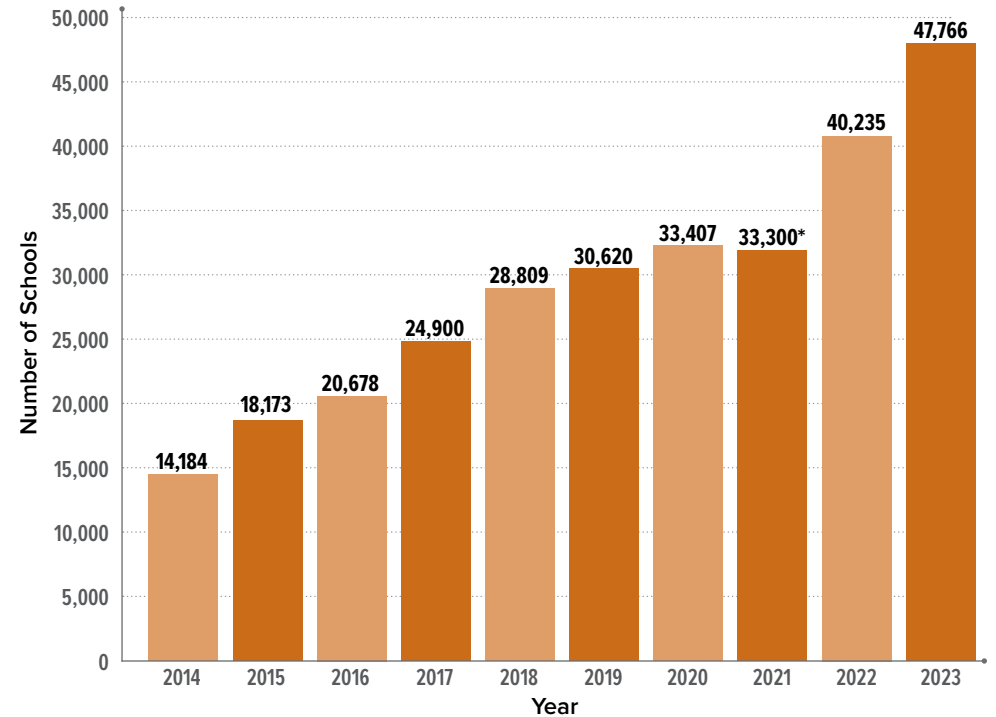
children attended a CEP school, an increase of nearly **3.8 million** children, or **18.9 percent**, from the previous school year.

The pandemic-related waivers available beginning in the spring of 2020 through the 2021–2022 school year that allowed schools to offer school meals at no charge to all students revealed the power that free school meals can have on the health and well-being of children and families, while streamlining food service operations for schools. Since the loss of those waivers, more eligible schools and school districts have embraced the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows high-need schools to offer school breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge.

CEP was established in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, and became available nationwide in the 2014–2015 school year. CEP adoption grew year after year, with one in three schools offering meals to all students at no charge through CEP prior to the pandemic. In the 2023–2024 school year, participation grew even more dramatically with one out of every two schools implementing CEP.

CEP has been associated with numerous benefits for both students and schools since it became available nationwide a decade ago. Research associates CEP with improvements in student health and education, such as modest reductions in childhood obesity, better attendance, reductions in school suspension rates, and improved educational outcomes, particularly in math.^{1,2,3,4,5} Furthermore,

GRAPH 1: Ten-Year Trend in Schools Participating in CEP



* The number of students enrolled in CEP schools in 2021 increased even though there was a slight decrease in schools adopting CEP. This was driven by school consolidations in New York City.

offering all students meals at no charge alters the perception that school meals are only for “children from low-income households,” thus, eliminating the stigma sometimes present with school meal participation. CEP increases participation in school meals, which strengthens the financial stability of schools’ food service operations, while allowing more students to experience the many benefits linked to school meals participation. CEP schools are also not required to collect or process school meal applications, thus, reducing administrative costs and

staff workloads, and allowing school nutrition professionals to focus on meal quality and student engagement and wellness. Furthermore, CEP eliminates school meal debt by offering all students healthy meals at no charge.

For the second year in a row, the number of school districts and schools implementing CEP proliferated:

- ▶ 7,717 school districts had one or more schools adopting CEP, an increase of 1,298 school districts, or 20.2 percent, from the 2022–2023 school year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED

- ▶ 74.3 percent of eligible school districts adopted CEP.
- ▶ 47,766 schools adopted CEP, an increase of 7,531 schools, or 18.7 percent, from the previous school year.
- ▶ 84.7 percent of eligible schools adopted CEP.
- ▶ 23.6 million children attended a CEP school, an increase of nearly 3.8 million children, or 18.9 percent, from the previous school year.

In October 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanded CEP eligibility by reducing the participation threshold from 40 percent “identified students” — children who are eligible for free school meals and already identified by means other than an individual household application — to 25 percent.⁶ As more schools become eligible, focused efforts must be made to ensure that eligible schools have the financial support, technical assistance, and resources needed to successfully implement CEP.

Ongoing challenges related to low direct certification rates, coupled with an inadequate multiplier (which together determines the federal reimbursement rates for CEP schools), prohibits many eligible schools from participating. Ensuring that eligible schools and districts can fully implement CEP is a key step towards Healthy School Meals for All — the vital education and public health initiative to offer a free school breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of their household income, which would raise nutrition equity and support children’s academic achievement. Collaborative leadership at local, state, and federal levels, including targeted technical assistance and federal legislation that increases the financial viability of CEP, would ensure that all students have equitable access to healthy school meals and the benefits they bestow on children’s health and learning.



About This Report

This report analyzes community eligibility adoption — nationally and for each state and the District of Columbia — in the 2023–2024 school year, and is based on four measures:

1. the number of eligible and adopting schools and school districts;
2. the share of eligible schools and districts that have adopted CEP;
3. the number and share of eligible schools that have adopted, based on the school’s poverty level; and
4. the number of students attending a school that participates in CEP.

As a companion to this report, FRAC has compiled all data collected in an [online database of eligible and adopting schools](#) that can be searched by state and school district.

CEP schools are high-need schools that offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. Instead of collecting school meal applications, CEP schools are reimbursed for a percentage of the meals served, using a formula based on the identified student percentage (ISP) — the percentage of students who are directly certified for free school meals without an application due to participation in another means-tested program (for example, students whose households participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)). Participating schools are required to use non-federal funds to offset any additional costs, over and above federal reimbursements, of serving free meals to all students.

CEP benefits both schools and families:

- ▶ **Schools no longer collect, process, or verify school meals applications**, saving significant time and reducing administrative burdens.
- ▶ **Schools do not need to track each meal served by fee category** (free, reduced-price, paid), and instead report total meal counts.
- ▶ **School nutrition staff do not need to collect fees from students who are eligible for reduced-price or paid school meals**, allowing students to move through cafeteria lines faster, and ensuring that more children can be served.
- ▶ **Offering meals at no charge to all students increases participation** because it eliminates any perception that the school meals programs are just for children from households with low incomes.
- ▶ **Schools no longer struggle with school meal debt for reduced-price and paid students**, and they do not have to follow up with families to collect unpaid school meal fees.

How Schools Can Participate

In October 2023, USDA reduced the CEP eligibility threshold so that any school, group of schools in a district, or district with 25 percent or more “identified students” was eligible to participate if the state agency administering the child nutrition programs applied for a waiver allowing midyear adoption. Twenty-eight states applied for this waiver allowing schools to elect CEP at 25 percent identified students after the start of the 2023–2024 school year. CEP eligibility in the remaining states remained at the prior level of 40 percent identified students. Starting in the 2024–2025 school year, the CEP eligibility threshold is 25 percent identified students nationwide.

Identified students are comprised of students directly certified for free school meals without an application. This includes:

- ▶ children directly certified for free school meals through data matching because their households receive SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations benefits, and in most states, Medicaid benefits (combined with an income test); and
- ▶ children who are certified for free school meals without an application because they are unhoused, migrant, runaway, enrolled in Head Start, or in foster care.

Identified students are a subset of those eligible

for free and reduced-price school meals. This is a smaller group than the total number of children who would be certified to receive free or reduced-price school meals if school meal applications were collected. For that reason, a multiplier is applied to the ISP.

How Schools Are Reimbursed

Although all meals are offered at no charge to all students in CEP schools, federal reimbursements are based on the school’s proportion of children from households with low incomes. The ISP is multiplied by 1.6 to calculate the percentage of meals reimbursed at the federal free rate, and the remainder of meals served are reimbursed at the lower, federal paid rate. For example, a school with 50 percent identified students would be reimbursed for 80 percent of the meals served at the free reimbursement rate ($50 \times 1.6 = 80$), and 20 percent at the paid rate.





KEY FINDINGS FOR THE 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR

School District Adoption

Nationally, 7,717 school districts — 74.3 percent of those eligible — adopted CEP in one or more schools in the 2023–2024 school year.⁷ And 1,298 additional school districts — 20.2 percent — implemented CEP compared to the prior school year. This increase is likely driven by state legislation supporting CEP and Healthy School Meals for All, as well as the seven new states that began directly certifying students with Medicaid data in the 2022–2023 school year.^{8,9}

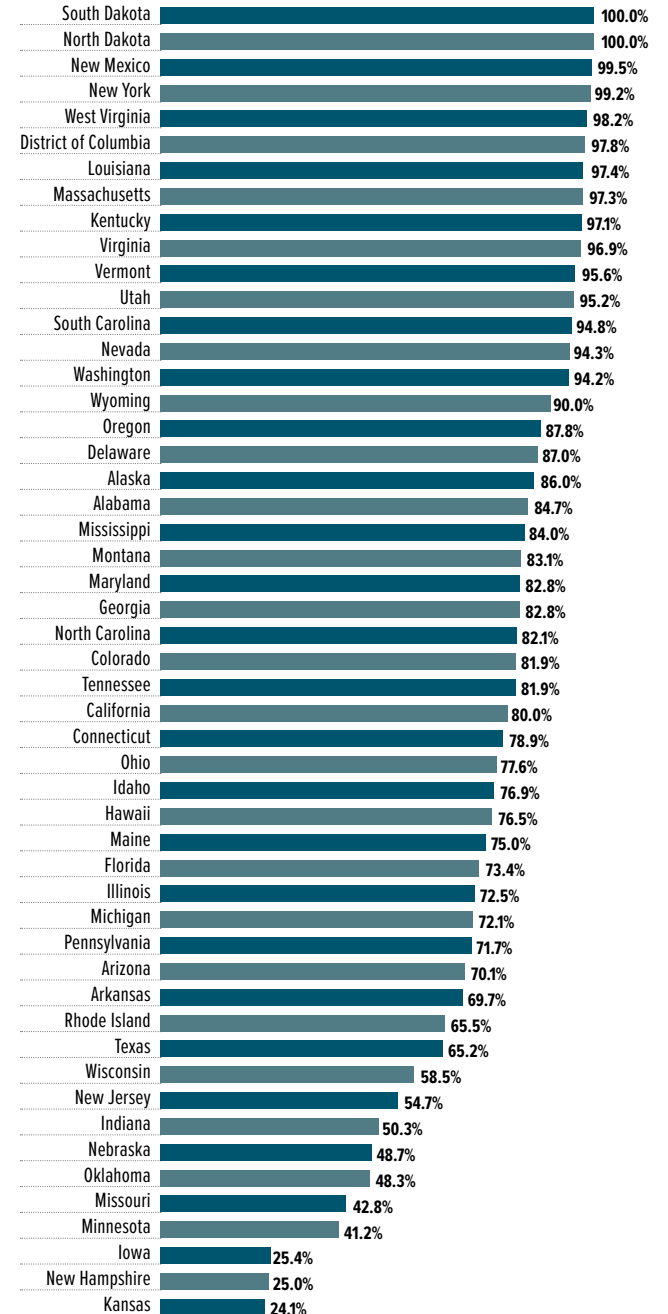
The median state’s take-up rate in school year 2023–2024 for eligible school districts was 81.9 percent; however, school district take-up rates across the states varied significantly, from 24.1 percent in Kansas to over 95 percent in the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Forty-one states and the District of Columbia increased the number of school districts adopting CEP in the 2023–2024 school year. New York experienced the largest growth in the number of districts adopting, with 326 additional school districts — 63.9 percent more school districts — participating in CEP in the 2023–2024 school year compared to the 2022–2023 school year. This increase can be attributed to New York legislation that subsidizes the difference between the free and paid federal reimbursement rates so that all meals served in CEP schools are reimbursed at the federal free rate. Kansas had the largest percentage increase, going from seven districts implementing CEP in 2022–2023 to 34 districts implementing in 2023–2024, a growth of 385.7 percent. Colorado and Alabama followed in largest percentage increases of school district implementing CEP by 172 percent and 92.4 percent, respectively. Kansas and Alabama’s

growth in district adoption can be attributed to their implementation of Medicaid Direct Certification in the 2022–2023 school year, which increased the number of school districts that were eligible for CEP, as well as increased schools’ ISP, making CEP more financially feasible for many schools. It should be noted that while Kansas’ growth is impressive, only 24.1 percent of eligible school districts were implementing CEP in the 2023–2024 school year. Colorado’s increase is due to the state’s Healthy School Meals for All legislation, which required schools to maximize federal reimbursements, often through CEP.

Only four states — Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, and Ohio — decreased the number of school districts implementing CEP in the 2023–2024 school year. Three of these states — Arkansas, Montana, and Ohio — also had decreases in the number of eligible school districts. Ohio had the largest decrease in participating school districts — 26 fewer school districts or 6.8 percent — resulting in the percentage of eligible districts adopting CEP decreasing from 81.7 percent to 77.6 percent. Missouri experienced a 4 percent drop in the number of eligible school districts adopting CEP, going from 99 districts participating in the 2022–2023 school year to 95 districts participating in the 2023–2024 school year. Montana experienced a 3.6 percent decrease in participating districts, going from 56 participating districts in the 2022–2023 school year to 54 districts in the 2023–2024 school year. Arkansas experienced a 1.4 percent drop in school district participation from 2022–2023 to 2023–2024, losing one school district between the two years. Five states — Hawaii, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, and West Virginia — maintained the same level of school district adoption from the 2022–2023 school year to the 2023–2024 school year.

GRAPH 2: Percentage of Eligible School Districts Adopting CEP in School Year 2023–2024



School Adoption

In the 2023–2024 school year, 47,766 schools adopted CEP, including schools from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Overall, school adoption of CEP increased by 7,531 schools — 18.7 percent — from the prior school year. In the 2023–2024 school year, 84.7 percent of all eligible schools adopted CEP nationally, with a median state take-up rate of 87.4 percent.

Among the states, the percentage of eligible and adopting schools varied significantly. Fourteen states — Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming — had 95 percent or more of their eligible schools adopting CEP. Sixteen states and the District of Columbia had between 85 to 95 percent of their eligible schools adopting CEP. Alternatively, Kansas and New Hampshire had less than 40 percent of their eligible schools adopting CEP: 28.7 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

Forty-four states and the District of Columbia increased the number of schools adopting CEP. New York had the largest increase in the number of schools adopting CEP — 1,149 more schools or a 37.7 percent increase — likely due to their state having passed state-supported CEP legislation in 2023. Michigan, North Carolina, and Colorado added 753, 651, and 482 schools, respectively. Colorado had the largest percent increase in school adoption — 454.7 percent — likely due to their Healthy School Meals for All legislation that encourages eligible schools to adopt CEP to receive state subsidies.

Two states — Hawaii and South Dakota — maintained the same number of CEP schools during the 2023–2024 school year as in the previous school year. Four states — Arkansas, Idaho, Montana, and Ohio — experienced a decrease in the number

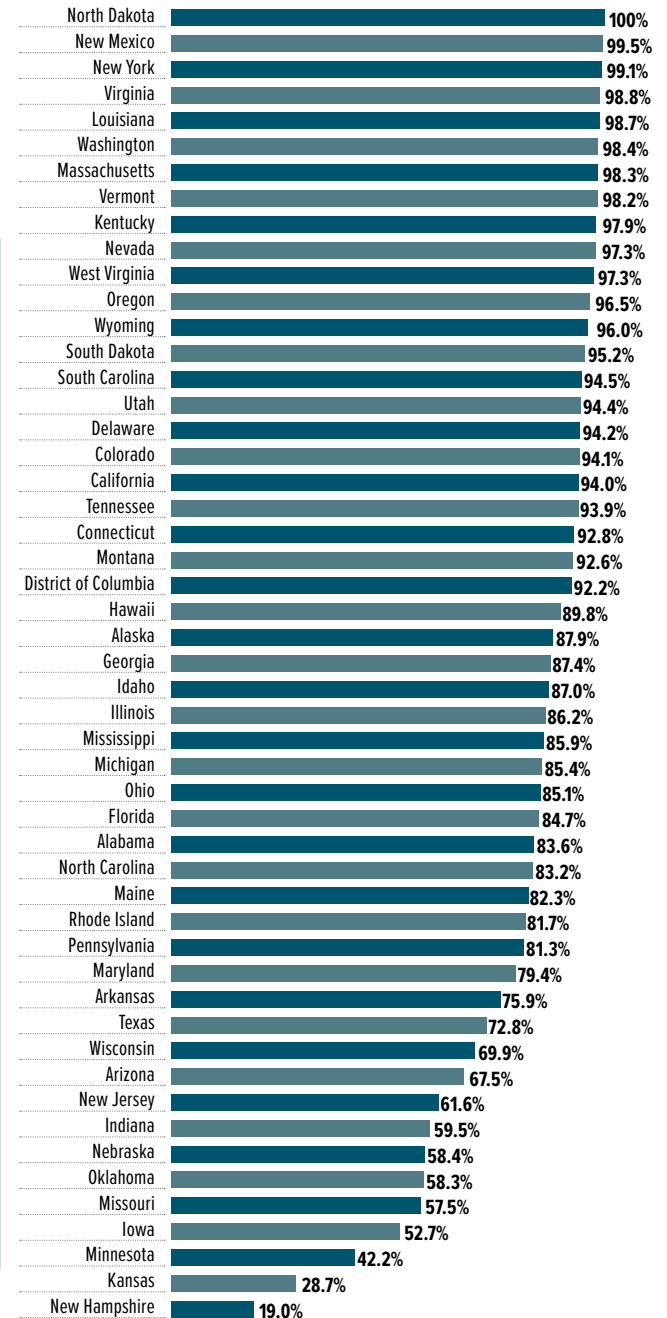
of schools participating in CEP. All four states also experienced a corresponding decrease in the number of schools that were eligible to participate in CEP. The largest participation decrease was in Ohio where 31 fewer schools were eligible and 59 fewer schools participated in 2023–2024 than in the previous school year.

INCREASE THE MULTIPLIER TO INCREASE CEP IMPLEMENTATION

In September 2023, USDA released a final CEP rule that lowered the CEP participation threshold from 40 percent “identified students” to 25 percent “identified students”. Twenty-eight states applied for a waiver allowing newly eligible schools to implement CEP midyear; however, midyear adoption rates amongst newly eligible schools varied significantly in these waiver states. States with CEP or Healthy School Meals for All subsidies experienced the greatest level of midyear adoption amongst newly eligible CEP schools, whereas states without subsidies experienced few or no newly eligible schools adopting midyear. The lower threshold became available nationwide in the 2024–2025 school year; however, many newly eligible schools may struggle to implement CEP at this lower threshold without additional financial assistance, such as an increase to the multiplier that determines the level of federal reimbursement that CEP schools receive. USDA does not have the authority to increase funding for CEP; that power lies with Congress.

In order to ensure that all eligible schools are able to successfully implement CEP, Congress must increase the multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5, as proposed in the [School Hunger Elimination Act \(S. 4525\)](#) and the [School Meals Expansion Act \(H.R. 2567\)](#).

GRAPH 3: Percentage of Eligible Schools Adopting Community Eligibility in School Year 2023–2024



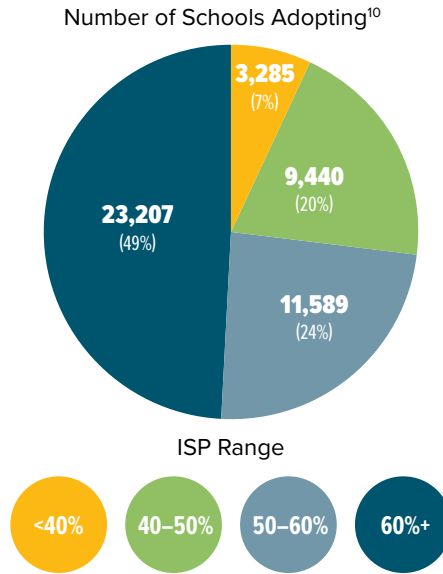
School Adoption by Poverty Level

Due to CEP’s reimbursement structure, participating schools with higher ISPs are better able to implement CEP while maintaining financial viability. Schools with ISPs greater than 62.5 percent receive the federal free reimbursement rate — the highest per meal rate — for all the meals served. Any school, group of schools, or school district with less than 62.5 percent ISP, is reimbursed at the federal free and federal paid rate — the lowest per meal rate. As a result, schools with higher ISPs are more likely to participate in CEP; however, more and more schools are adopting CEP at lower ISPs.

Since the 2014–2015 school year, the number of schools participating with an ISP between 40 percent and 50 percent has more than quintupled, and the number of schools participating with an ISP between 50 percent and 60 percent has more than quadrupled, as schools become more familiar with the positive impact of community eligibility on school nutrition finances, and on children, families, and the school environment.

In the 2023–2024 school year, of the 47,766 schools adopting CEP, 23,207 schools, 48.6 percent, had ISPs of 60 percent or higher. Of adopting schools with lower ISPs, 11,589 schools, or 24.3 percent, had ISPs between 50 and 60 percent; 9,440 schools, or 19.8 percent, had ISPs between 40 and 50 percent; and 3,285 schools, or 6.9 percent, had ISPs below 40 percent.¹⁰ In the 2023–2024 school year, 91.4 percent of schools with ISPs above 60 percent adopted CEP, whereas 84.8 percent of schools with ISPs between 50 percent and 60 percent implemented CEP last year. Among schools with ISPs between 40 percent and 50 percent, the national average adoption rate for eligible schools was 68.4 percent, with a median of 80 percent.¹¹

CEP ADOPTION BY ISP



Among states, the percentage of eligible versus adopting schools in the 40 percent to 50 percent ISP group varies significantly. Sixteen states had 90 percent or more eligible low-ISP schools adopting. An additional nine states and the District of Columbia had 80 percent or more of their schools adopting. Alternatively, nine states had less than 30 percent of their eligible low-ISP schools adopting, including New Hampshire, which had only 7.7 percent of eligible low-ISP schools adopting. Of the 16 states that have over 90 percent of low-ISP schools participating, nine have either CEP or Healthy School Meals for All policies that provide state subsidies to assist schools efforts to offer nutritious meals to all students, while five other states in this range provide additional state funding for school meals or operations, such as state support for breakfast-after-the-bell initiatives.

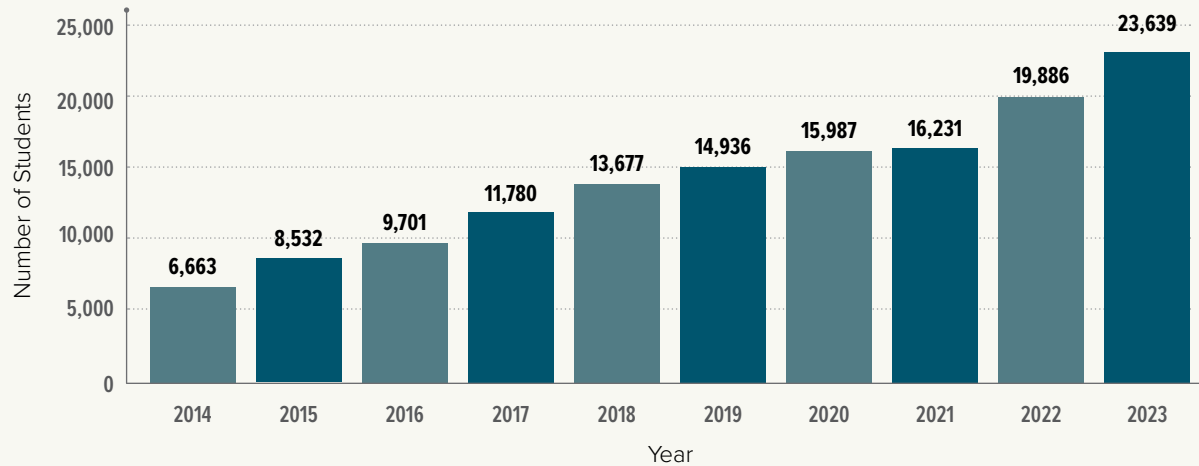
Student Enrollment

In the 2023–2024 school year, over 23.6 million students attended CEP schools; this is up from 19.9 million in the 2022–2023 school year. California and Texas had the most children attending CEP schools, with approximately 3.6 million and 2.6 million in each state, respectively.

Forty-five states and the District of Columbia increased the number of students in CEP schools in the 2023–2024 school year. New York and North Carolina experienced the biggest increase in the number of students attending CEP schools, having added 616,758 students and 344,820 students, respectively. South Carolina, Florida, and Michigan had significant increases relative to other states as well, adding 329,254 students, 324,468 students, and 315,564 students, respectively.

Five states saw decreases in the number of students attending CEP schools in the 2023–2024 school year. Two states — Ohio and Arkansas — saw decreases of more than 1,000 students, with Ohio reporting a decrease of more than 15,000 students. As previously noted, Ohio had a 5.2 percent decrease in the number of schools participating in CEP in 2023–2024. Two states — Rhode Island and South Dakota — had a decrease in students but increased or maintained the same number of schools participating from the prior school year. For example, South Dakota saw a decrease of 129 students while maintaining the same number of schools implementing CEP from the 2022–2023 school year to the 2023–2024 school year. Overall, South Dakota experienced a decrease in public school enrollment from the 2022–2023 school year to the 2023–2024 school year, reporting 424 fewer students enrolled in prekindergarten through twelfth grade in October 2023 compared to October 2022.¹²

GRAPH 4: 10-Year Trend in Student Enrollment in Schools Participating in CEP (in Thousands)



Rhode Island saw a decrease of 142 students, yet CEP adoption increased by eight schools. The decrease in Rhode Island’s enrollment may be attributed to decreases in CEP schools’ enrollment from the 2022–2023 school year to the 2023–2024 school year. Of the 57 Rhode Island schools that operated CEP in both school years, 35 reported a lower enrollment in 2023–2024 than in 2022–2023. Conversely, Idaho had one less school participate in the 2023–2024 school year compared to the 2022–2023 school year; however, their reported student enrollment in CEP schools increased by 4,584 students. This may be due to higher enrollments reported in the 2023–2024 school year for 15 returning Idaho schools.

Medicaid Direct Certification

Direct certification has transformed the process of linking eligible children to free school meals by easing application burdens on households and

streamlining administrative processes for schools. The Medicaid Direct Certification demonstration project was first authorized through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 to allow students who are enrolled in Medicaid and whose household income falls below the specified federal poverty thresholds to automatically receive free or reduced-price school meals without having to submit a meal benefit application. Directly certifying students for free or reduced-price school meals, as opposed to determining eligibility via an application, better links eligible children to school meal benefits, eases paperwork burdens on families and schools, positively impacts program integrity, and increases the financial viability of CEP by increasing a school’s ISP.

Twenty-six states implemented Medicaid Direct Certification in the 2022–2023 school year, including seven states for which Medicaid Direct

Certification was brand new — Alabama, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, and South Carolina.¹³ Given the CEP regulatory timelines for eligibility and adoption, initiating Medicaid Direct Certification in the 2022–2023 school year directly impacted schools’ ability to implement CEP in the 2023–2024 school year (the following school year). All seven states experienced significant increases in the number of schools adopting CEP in the 2023–2024 school year (the school year after they implemented Medicaid Direct Certification).

Twelve additional states — Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wyoming — began implementing Medicaid Direct Certification in the 2023–2024 school year, and five new states — Idaho, Maine, New Jersey, North Dakota, and Rhode Island — began Medicaid Direct Certification in the 2024–2025 school year, bringing the total number of participating states to 43.

USDA is currently accepting applications to implement Medicaid Direct Certification in the 2025–2026 school year. This generous timeline provides states with a sufficient planning period to establish data-sharing agreements between agencies, update technological systems, and provide technical assistance to school districts. The remaining seven states — Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, and South Dakota — as well as the District of Columbia, are strongly encouraged to apply to implement Medicaid Direct Certification to support better access to school meals, to reduce the administrative burden on schools and families, and so that a greater number of children can benefit from community eligibility. Learn more by reading [USDA’s Request for Proposals](#).

Expanding Access to Community Eligibility

As previously mentioned, USDA reduced CEP's participation threshold from 40 percent to 25 percent, thus greatly increasing the number of schools that will be eligible to participate in the 2025–2026 school year; however, many newly eligible schools are unable to participate without additional funding due to the inadequate multiplier that determines the level of federal reimbursement that CEP schools receive. CEP adoption rates continue to be highest among schools with an ISP greater than 50 percent, with schools below this threshold reporting difficulties maintaining financial solvency. To make CEP a more financially viable option for high-need schools, Congress must increase the multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5.

Efforts are underway in both the House and the Senate to strengthen and expand CEP. [The School Hunger Elimination Act](#) (S. 4525) would increase federal funding for CEP schools by increasing the multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5, while strengthening CEP through additional policy changes, such as creating a statewide grouping option, expanding direct certification to include children receiving Social Security income and mandating Medicaid Direct Certification, and providing retroactive reimbursement for meals served to children who are certified for free or reduced-price school meals later in the school year. The [Nutrition Red Tape Reduction Act](#) (S. 4523) would permanently lower the threshold for schools to participate in CEP to 25 percent so that future regulations did not increase participation requirements. In the House, the [School Meals Expansion Act](#) (H.R. 2567) would increase federal funding for CEP schools and permanently lower the threshold for schools to participate to 25 percent ISP. The [No Hungry Kids in School Act](#) (H.R. 3112) would create a statewide grouping option, while the [Expanding Access to School](#)

[Meals Act](#) (H.R. 3113) would increase eligibility for free meals to 200 percent, expand direct certification, make eligibility retroactive to the beginning of the school year, and increase funding for CEP schools.

Healthy School Meals for All

CEP is an important pathway to Healthy School Meals for All nationwide. The pandemic-era waivers that allowed all schools to serve all students school meals at no cost revealed what is possible when we dismantle administrative barriers and increase equitable access to nutritious school meals — food service operations are streamlined, school meals participation increases, and children have access to the nutrition they need to learn and thrive. Eight states — California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Vermont — have implemented Healthy School Meals for All policies. Nevada extended their Healthy School Meals for All policy through the 2023–2024 school year, while New York, Oregon, and Washington have provided additional funding to support CEP schools. Collectively, these 12 states contributed 47 percent of the new schools that adopted CEP in the 2023–2024 school year.


Every child in every state should have access to healthy school meals, regardless of household income. The [Universal School Meals Program Act](#) (S. 1568, H.R. 3204) would do just that — make Healthy School Meals for All a reality nationwide. Offering school meals to all students at no cost is a vital and necessary public health investment, is critical to supporting positive educational outcomes, and is instrumental in advancing racial equity by helping to ensure that all students have the nutritional foundation they need. Learn more at FRAC's website on Healthy School Meals for All, www.FreeSchoolMealsforAll.org.

Conclusion

The Community Eligibility Provision has revolutionized children's access to healthy school meals. By eliminating stigma for students, reducing barriers of cost and paperwork for families, and streamlining food service operations, CEP creates hunger-free schools where all children have access to the nutrition they need to learn. CEP supports students' academic achievement and healthy development, and is just as vital to students' success as textbooks and transportation.

To maximize CEP's impact, school districts and state agencies must leverage the power of technology and data-sharing platforms to ensure that robust direct certification systems identify all eligible children. All states must implement direct certification with the Medicaid Demonstration Project to decrease application burdens on families and increase the financial feasibility of schools implementing CEP. And all child nutrition partners, from USDA to state agencies, from school districts to anti-hunger advocates, must work collectively to assist families and schools in their efforts to offer all children healthy school meals.

Every child, in every state, should have access to the nutrition they need to succeed. Congress has the ability to make Healthy School Meals for All a reality nationwide, and CEP offers an important step toward achieving that goal.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ▶ [School District Strategies for Improving Direct Certification](#)
- ▶ [Community Eligibility: Making It Work With Lower ISPs](#)
- ▶ [Community Eligibility Partial Implementation Guide](#)

For more information and additional resources to help determine if CEP is a possibility for your school district, go to [FRAC's Community Eligibility webpage](#).



Technical Notes

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) obtained information on schools that were approved to operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in the 2023–2024 school year from state agencies that administer the federal school nutrition programs. Between September 2023 and March 2024, FRAC collected these data:

- ▶ school name
- ▶ school district name
- ▶ identified student percentage
- ▶ participation in community eligibility as an individual school, part of a group, or a whole district
- ▶ enrollment

FRAC followed up with state agencies for data clarifications, and when necessary, to obtain missing data to the maximum extent practical. Additionally, FRAC shared the final data tables with state agencies for review before publication.

Under federal law, states are required to publish, by May 1 of each year, a list of CEP-eligible and near-eligible schools and districts. When the 2023–2024 school year began, CEP-eligible schools and school districts were ones with identified student percentages (ISPs) of at least 40 percent, and near-eligible schools and school districts were those with ISPs between 30 percent and just under 40 percent. In October 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanded CEP eligibility to schools and school districts with an ISP of at least 25 percent and classified near-eligible schools and school districts as those with ISPs between 15 percent and just under 25 percent. Furthermore, USDA granted states the ability to waive the June 30, 2023, election deadline and allow schools to adopt CEP at the

new, lower thresholds until March 31, 2024. Twenty-eight states applied for a waiver allowing midyear adoption, although not every state had schools elect to participate in CEP midyear.

To examine CEP participation against eligibility, FRAC compared states' May 2023 eligibility lists to the participation files provided by the state agency upon request. In determining district eligibility, FRAC treated a district as eligible if it contained at least one eligible school. FRAC treated a school as eligible if it appeared on a state's published eligibility list above the 40 percent threshold. Schools that were missing from a state's eligibility list, but appeared on its participation list were treated as eligible. Additionally, given the varying allowance for midyear adoption at the 25 percent threshold, only schools that participated below 40 percent ISP were counted toward eligibility. Non-participating schools with ISPs lower than 40 percent were not counted toward eligibility.

FRAC gave states the option to report both eligible and adopting schools in the CEP participation data collection. This gave states the opportunity to update their eligible schools list to reflect any school closures or consolidations. Fifteen states — Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia — provided both eligible and adopting schools for this analysis.

There are two circumstances under which a school might be able to adopt community eligibility even if it did not appear on a state's list of eligible schools:

1. USDA permitted states to base their May published lists on proxy data readily available to them. Proxy data are merely an indicator of potential eligibility, not the basis for eligibility.

Districts must submit more accurate information, which may be more complete, more recent, or both, when applying to adopt CEP.

2. A school can participate as a member of an adopting group (part or all of a district). A group's eligibility is based on the ISP for the group as a whole.

The 2023–2024 CEP participation data reflects the point in time when the data was received from the state agency and may differ slightly from other participation data sources. As previously mentioned, 28 states applied for a USDA waiver allowing midyear CEP adoption at the lower 25 percent threshold — Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Wyoming, and West Virginia. States had the authority to determine their own application deadlines if they did not surpass the federal deadline of March 31, 2024. While individual states' application deadlines are unknown, it is possible that some states continued to allow schools and school districts to adopt CEP after they submitted participation data to FRAC, resulting in some participating schools not being captured in this report.

The participation data requested from state agencies included whether schools have elected to adopt community eligibility, the ISP the schools use to determine the federal reimbursement for meals served, and the total number of students attending each adopting school. The ISP schools use to determine the federal reimbursement

for meals served, sometimes called the group or claiming ISP, is reported for participating schools, while the individual or proxy ISP is reported for non-participating schools. Eight states — California, Georgia, Iowa, Maryland, Mississippi, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington — provided individual schools’ ISP for participating schools. Therefore, these states may have schools indicated in ISP categories that do not accurately reflect the ISP used to determine federal reimbursements. Similarly, participation data for Illinois was pulled from their May 2024 CEP eligibility list and reports individual schools’ ISP rather than the ISP used to determine federal reimbursements. California reported 61 participating schools without an ISP; Colorado reported two participating schools without an ISP; Illinois reported one participating school without an ISP; and Louisiana reported 181 participating schools without an ISP. These schools were excluded from “Table 3: Community Eligibility (CEP) Take-Up Rate by Schools’ Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for School Year 2023–2024.” Therefore, the total number of participating schools indicated in each ISP category in Table 3 for California, Colorado, Illinois, and Louisiana, is less than the total number of schools adopting CEP in each respective state.

Some states reported schools’ free-claiming percentages (ISP multiplied by 1.6) rather than

the ISP. The reverse calculation (free-claiming percentage divided by 1.6) was completed to determine the appropriate ISP category for these schools. While it is impossible to know the exact grouped ISP, it can be determined that the school is participating in CEP with an ISP of at least 62.5 percent.

The following states had schools that did not provide student enrollment numbers:

- ▶ 6 schools in Alabama
- ▶ 1 school in Alaska
- ▶ 2 schools in Arkansas
- ▶ 10 schools in California
- ▶ 4 schools in Colorado
- ▶ 2 schools in Delaware
- ▶ 1 school in Illinois
- ▶ 188 schools in Louisiana
- ▶ 1 school in Massachusetts
- ▶ 2 schools in Maryland
- ▶ 1 school in Michigan
- ▶ 1 school in Missouri
- ▶ 32 schools in New Mexico
- ▶ 7 schools in Oregon

- ▶ 1 school in Pennsylvania
- ▶ 4 schools in South Carolina
- ▶ 34 schools in Texas
- ▶ 13 schools in Vermont
- ▶ 2 schools in Virginia

Tennessee did not provide enrollment data in their CEP participation file; however, FRAC was able to identify enrollment from the May 2023 eligibility list for 823 schools, leaving 63 schools without any reported enrollment. Oklahoma reported multiple enrollment figures for over 500 schools. FRAC used the lowest reported enrollment when calculating Oklahoma’s total student enrollment in Table 4.

Rhode Island provided updated data for the 2022–2023 school year, which increased the number of eligible school districts by one district and increased the number of eligible schools by six schools. Rhode Island’s CEP participation data for the 2022–2023 school year remained the same as previously reported. Likewise, Idaho provided updated data for the 2022–2023 school year, which decreased the number of eligible school districts by 15 districts and increased the number of eligible schools by eight schools. Idaho’s CEP participation data for the 2022–2023 school year remained the same as previously reported.

Endnotes

- 1 Localio AM, Knox MA, Basu A, Lindman T, Walkinshaw LP, Jones-Smith JC. Universal Free School Meals Policy and Childhood Obesity. *Pediatrics*. 2024 Apr 1;153(4):e2023063749. doi: 10.1542/peds.2023-063749. PMID: 38495019; PMCID: PMC10979297.
- 2 Domina, T., Clark, L., Radsky, V., & Bhaskar, R. (2024). There Is Such a Thing as a Free Lunch: School Meals, Stigma, and Student Discipline. *American Educational Research Journal*, 61(2), 287-327. <https://doi.org/10.3102/00028312231222266>
- 3 Bartfeld JS, Berger L, Men F. Universal Access to Free School Meals through the Community Eligibility Provision Is Associated with Better Attendance for Low-Income Elementary School Students in Wisconsin. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2020 Feb;120(2):210-218. doi: 10.1016/j.jand.2019.07.022. Epub 2019 Oct 14. PMID: 31624028.
- 4 Gordanier, J., Ozturk, O., Williams, B., & Zhan, C. (2020). Free Lunch for All! The Effect of the Community Eligibility Provision on Academic Outcomes. *Economics of Education Review*, 77, 101999-. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2020.101999>
- 5 Ruffini, K. (2022). Universal Access to Free School Meals and Student Achievement: Evidence from the Community Eligibility Provision. *The Journal of Human Resources*, 57(3), 776–820. <https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.57.3.0518-9509R3>
- 6 In October 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a Final Rule which expanded CEP eligibility by reducing the participation threshold from 40 percent “identified students” — children who are eligible for free school meals and already identified by means other than an individual household application — to 25 percent. Twenty-eight states adopted the new threshold after the start of the 2023–2024 school year: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Wyoming, and West Virginia. While these 28 states allowed for midyear community eligibility adoption amongst newly eligible schools, not every state saw schools electing to implement CEP at the lower threshold last year. The 25 percent participation threshold became available nationwide for the 2024–2025 school year.
- 7 Under federal law, states are required to publish annually a list of school districts that are eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision districtwide, as well as a list of individual schools that are eligible, by May 1. For more information on Community Eligibility’s public notification requirements, see [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-245#p-245.9\(f\)\(7\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-245#p-245.9(f)(7))
- 8 Four additional states — Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, and New Mexico — passed Healthy School Meals for All legislation for the 2023–2024 school year that required eligible schools to adopt the Community Eligibility Provision to receive state subsidies. Similarly, New York passed legislation providing state subsidies for schools implementing community eligibility, joining Oregon and Washington state.
- 9 Alabama, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, and South Carolina began certifying students as eligible for free and reduced-price school meals using Medicaid data in the 2022–2023 school year. Illinois expanded their initial demonstration project to include additional locations and/or expand from free meals only to free and reduced-price meals in the 2022–2023 school year as well. More information on the Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Projects can be found at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/direct-certification-medicaid-demonstration-project>
- 10 Two hundred and forty-five schools did not report ISPs and therefore were not counted in the school adoption by poverty level analysis.
- 11 This past school year, 3,285 schools with ISPs below 40 percent implemented CEP; however, given that this option was not available nationwide, participation at this threshold was not measured against eligibility in this report.
- 12 South Dakota Department of Education. Student Enrollment Data. Accessed on October 25, 2024. <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/enrollment.aspx>
- 13 Illinois expanded their initial demonstration project from free meals only to free and reduced-price meals in 2022–2023.

Table 1: Community Provision (CEP) Take-Up Rate in School Districts for School Years 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

| State | School Year 2022–2023 | | | School Year 2023–2024 | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| | Eligible for CEP | Adopting CEP | Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible | Eligible for CEP ¹ | Adopting CEP | Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible |
| Alabama | 131 | 66 | 50.4% | 150 | 127 | 84.7% |
| Alaska | 41 | 34 | 82.9% | 43 | 37 | 86% |
| Arizona | 271 | 187 | 69% | 271 | 190 | 70.1% |
| Arkansas | 121 | 70 | 57.9% | 99 | 69 | 69.7% |
| California | 763 | 605 | 79.3% | 791 | 633 | 80% |
| Colorado | 71 | 25 | 35.2% | 83 | 68 | 81.9% |
| Connecticut | 76 | 59 | 77.6% | 76 | 60 | 78.9% |
| Delaware | 23 | 17 | 73.9% | 23 | 20 | 87% |
| District of Columbia | 43 | 42 | 97.7% | 45 | 44 | 97.8% |
| Florida | 325 | 217 | 66.8% | 350 | 257 | 73.4% |
| Georgia | 140 | 117 | 83.6% | 145 | 120 | 82.8% |
| Hawaii | 13 | 13 | 100% | 17 | 13 | 76.5% |
| Idaho ² | 28 | 20 | 71.4% | 26 | 20 | 76.9% |
| Illinois | 627 | 385 | 61.4% | 637 | 462 | 72.5% |
| Indiana | 350 | 142 | 40.6% | 326 | 164 | 50.3% |
| Iowa | 124 | 25 | 20.2% | 134 | 34 | 25.4% |
| Kansas | 32 | 7 | 21.9% | 141 | 34 | 24.1% |
| Kentucky | 173 | 167 | 96.5% | 175 | 170 | 97.1% |
| Louisiana | 138 | 125 | 90.6% | 155 | 151 | 97.4% |
| Maine | 38 | 25 | 65.8% | 36 | 27 | 75% |
| Maryland | 28 | 17 | 60.7% | 29 | 24 | 82.8% |
| Massachusetts | 180 | 137 | 76.1% | 221 | 215 | 97.3% |
| Michigan | 739 | 416 | 56.3% | 773 | 557 | 72.1% |
| Minnesota | 136 | 75 | 55.1% | 337 | 139 | 41.2% |
| Mississippi | 97 | 75 | 77.3% | 119 | 100 | 84% |
| Missouri | 160 | 99 | 61.9% | 222 | 95 | 42.8% |
| Montana | 87 | 56 | 64.4% | 65 | 54 | 83.1% |
| Nebraska | 71 | 26 | 36.6% | 76 | 37 | 48.7% |
| Nevada | 28 | 26 | 92.9% | 35 | 33 | 94.3% |
| New Hampshire | 10 | 2 | 20% | 12 | 3 | 25% |
| New Jersey | 159 | 80 | 50.3% | 161 | 88 | 54.7% |
| New Mexico | 147 | 134 | 91.2% | 186 | 185 | 99.5% |
| New York | 647 | 510 | 78.8% | 843 | 836 | 99.2% |
| North Carolina | 155 | 111 | 71.6% | 179 | 147 | 82.1% |
| North Dakota | 23 | 23 | 100% | 23 | 23 | 100% |
| Ohio | 469 | 383 | 81.7% | 460 | 357 | 77.6% |
| Oklahoma | 262 | 112 | 42.7% | 236 | 114 | 48.3% |
| Oregon | 127 | 116 | 91.3% | 139 | 122 | 87.8% |
| Pennsylvania | 561 | 338 | 60.2% | 562 | 403 | 71.7% |
| Rhode Island ² | 24 | 14 | 58.3% | 29 | 19 | 65.5% |
| South Carolina | 79 | 62 | 78.5% | 96 | 91 | 94.8% |
| South Dakota | 39 | 32 | 82.1% | 32 | 32 | 100% |
| Tennessee | 130 | 102 | 78.5% | 127 | 104 | 81.9% |
| Texas | 918 | 563 | 61.3% | 952 | 621 | 65.2% |
| Utah | 17 | 15 | 88.2% | 21 | 20 | 95.2% |
| Vermont | 27 | 24 | 88.9% | 45 | 43 | 95.6% |
| Virginia | 125 | 120 | 96% | 127 | 123 | 96.9% |
| Washington | 204 | 201 | 98.5% | 223 | 210 | 94.2% |
| West Virginia | 58 | 55 | 94.8% | 56 | 55 | 98.2% |
| Wisconsin | 257 | 140 | 54.5% | 270 | 158 | 58.5% |
| Wyoming | 7 | 7 | 100% | 10 | 9 | 90% |
| U.S. Total | 9,499 | 6,419 | 67.6% | 10,389 | 7,717 | 74.3% |

1 For the 2023–2024 school year data, school districts are defined as eligible if they include at least one school with an ISP of 40 percent or higher, or at least one school has already adopted community eligibility.

2 Rhode Island provided updated data for the 2022–2023 school year, which increased the number of eligible districts by one more than previously reported. Likewise, Idaho provided updated data for the 2022–2023 school year, which decreased the number of eligible school districts by 15 districts. Rhode Island and Idaho’s CEP participation data for the 2022–2023 school year remained the same as previously reported.

Table 2: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Take-Up Rate in Schools for School Years 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

| State | School Year 2022–2023 | | | School Year 2023–2024 | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------|
| | Eligible for CEP | Adopting CEP | Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible | Eligible for CEP ¹ | Adopting CEP | Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible |
| Alabama | 812 | 536 | 66% | 1,211 | 1,013 | 83.6% |
| Alaska | 242 | 211 | 87.2% | 247 | 217 | 87.9% |
| Arizona | 755 | 508 | 67.3% | 773 | 522 | 67.5% |
| Arkansas | 363 | 250 | 68.9% | 315 | 239 | 75.9% |
| California | 6,179 | 6,150 | 99.5% | 6,832 | 6,425 | 94% |
| Colorado | 392 | 106 | 27% | 625 | 588 | 94.1% |
| Connecticut | 522 | 483 | 92.5% | 530 | 492 | 92.8% |
| Delaware | 143 | 127 | 88.8% | 139 | 131 | 94.2% |
| District of Columbia | 181 | 180 | 99.4% | 205 | 189 | 92.2% |
| Florida | 3,105 | 2,542 | 81.9% | 3,407 | 2,887 | 84.7% |
| Georgia | 999 | 873 | 87.4% | 1,021 | 892 | 87.4% |
| Hawaii | 122 | 106 | 86.9% | 118 | 106 | 89.8% |
| Idaho ² | 74 | 61 | 82.4% | 69 | 60 | 87% |
| Illinois | 2,449 | 2,087 | 85.2% | 2,719 | 2,344 | 86.2% |
| Indiana | 1,148 | 593 | 51.7% | 1,235 | 735 | 59.5% |
| Iowa | 427 | 221 | 51.8% | 463 | 244 | 52.7% |
| Kansas | 118 | 34 | 28.8% | 505 | 145 | 28.7% |
| Kentucky | 1,122 | 1,092 | 97.3% | 1,159 | 1,135 | 97.9% |
| Louisiana | 1,212 | 1,177 | 97.1% | 1,444 | 1,425 | 98.7% |
| Maine | 84 | 77 | 91.7% | 96 | 79 | 82.3% |
| Maryland | 434 | 355 | 81.8% | 820 | 651 | 79.4% |
| Massachusetts | 972 | 846 | 87% | 1,142 | 1,123 | 98.3% |
| Michigan | 2,378 | 1,638 | 68.9% | 2,800 | 2,391 | 85.4% |
| Minnesota | 299 | 160 | 53.5% | 889 | 375 | 42.2% |
| Mississippi | 433 | 370 | 85.5% | 461 | 396 | 85.9% |
| Missouri | 561 | 416 | 74.2% | 742 | 427 | 57.5% |
| Montana | 230 | 167 | 72.6% | 176 | 163 | 92.6% |
| Nebraska | 293 | 151 | 51.5% | 286 | 167 | 58.4% |
| Nevada | 505 | 501 | 99.2% | 530 | 519 | 97.9% |
| New Hampshire | 21 | 3 | 14.3% | 21 | 4 | 19% |
| New Jersey | 568 | 321 | 56.5% | 593 | 365 | 61.6% |
| New Mexico | 701 | 667 | 95.1% | 829 | 825 | 99.5% |
| New York | 3,382 | 3,051 | 90.2% | 4,239 | 4,200 | 99.1% |
| North Carolina | 1,261 | 974 | 77.2% | 1,954 | 1,625 | 83.2% |
| North Dakota | 38 | 37 | 97.4% | 38 | 38 | 100% |
| Ohio | 1,302 | 1,141 | 87.6% | 1,271 | 1,082 | 85.1% |
| Oklahoma | 688 | 384 | 55.8% | 667 | 389 | 58.3% |
| Oregon | 722 | 709 | 98.2% | 767 | 740 | 96.5% |
| Pennsylvania | 2,045 | 1,478 | 72.3% | 2,106 | 1,712 | 81.3% |
| Rhode Island ² | 94 | 68 | 72.3% | 93 | 76 | 81.7% |
| South Carolina | 625 | 546 | 87.4% | 1,021 | 965 | 94.5% |
| South Dakota | 122 | 100 | 82% | 105 | 100 | 95.2% |
| Tennessee | 958 | 877 | 91.5% | 944 | 886 | 93.9% |
| Texas | 6,045 | 4,231 | 70% | 6,375 | 4,638 | 72.8% |
| Utah | 54 | 50 | 92.6% | 72 | 68 | 94.4% |
| Vermont | 97 | 92 | 94.8% | 219 | 215 | 98.2% |
| Virginia | 1,106 | 1,086 | 98.2% | 1,203 | 1,189 | 98.8% |
| Washington | 1,221 | 1,213 | 99.3% | 1,313 | 1,292 | 98.4% |
| West Virginia | 603 | 585 | 97% | 623 | 606 | 97.3% |
| Wisconsin | 874 | 591 | 67.6% | 925 | 647 | 69.9% |
| Wyoming | 13 | 13 | 100% | 25 | 24 | 96% |
| U.S. Total | 49,094 | 40,235 | 82% | 56,362 | 47,766 | 84.7% |

1 For the 2023–2024 school year data, schools are defined as eligible if they have an ISP of 40 percent or higher, or if they adopted community eligibility at a lower ISP due to mid-year election at the new threshold, grouping, or grace year status.

2 Rhode Island provided updated data for the 2022–2023 school year, which increased the number of eligible schools by six more than previously reported. Idaho updated their 2022–2023 school year data, which increased the number of eligible schools by eight more than previously reported. Rhode Island and Idaho’s CEP participation data for the 2022–2023 school year remained the same as previously reported.

Table 3: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Take-Up Rate by Schools' Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for School Year 2023–2024

| State | Total Adopting | <40% | | | 40-<50% | | | 50-<60% | | | 60%+ | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | Adopting | Eligible | Adopting | Percentage Adopting | Eligible | Adopting | Percentage Adopting | Eligible | Adopting | Percentage Adopting | | |
| Alabama | 1,013 | 6 | 72 | 15 | 20.8% | 243 | 181 | 74.5% | 890 | 811 | 91.1% | | |
| Alaska | 217 | 0 | 80 | 66 | 82.5% | 41 | 36 | 87.8% | 126 | 115 | 91.3% | | |
| Arizona | 522 | 1 | 295 | 120 | 40.7% | 294 | 245 | 83.3% | 183 | 156 | 85.2% | | |
| Arkansas | 239 | 7 | 145 | 105 | 72.4% | 112 | 84 | 75% | 51 | 43 | 84.3% | | |
| California ¹ | 6,425 | 1,183 | 1,493 | 1,313 | 87.9% | 1,647 | 1,534 | 93.1% | 2,448 | 2,334 | 95.3% | | |
| Colorado | 588 | 2 | 528 | 504 | 95.5% | 57 | 49 | 86% | 36 | 31 | 86.1% | | |
| Connecticut | 492 | 0 | 166 | 135 | 81.3% | 132 | 127 | 96.2% | 232 | 230 | 99.1% | | |
| Delaware | 131 | 15 | 89 | 84 | 94.4% | 32 | 30 | 93.8% | 3 | 2 | 66.7% | | |
| District of Columbia | 189 | 10 | 20 | 17 | 85% | 16 | 14 | 87.5% | 159 | 148 | 93.1% | | |
| Florida | 2,887 | 0 | 514 | 343 | 66.7% | 957 | 832 | 86.9% | 1,936 | 1,712 | 88.4% | | |
| Georgia ¹ | 892 | 69 | 254 | 171 | 67.3% | 281 | 261 | 92.9% | 417 | 391 | 93.8% | | |
| Hawaii | 106 | 0 | 36 | 32 | 88.9% | 22 | 20 | 90.9% | 60 | 54 | 90% | | |
| Idaho | 60 | 0 | 55 | 49 | 89.1% | 8 | 5 | 62.5% | 6 | 6 | 100% | | |
| Illinois | 2,344 | 44 | 233 | 27 | 11.6% | 159 | 68 | 42.8% | 2,282 | 2,204 | 96.6% | | |
| Indiana | 735 | 0 | 399 | 124 | 31.1% | 291 | 160 | 55% | 545 | 451 | 82.8% | | |
| Iowa ¹ | 244 | 13 | 191 | 40 | 20.9% | 128 | 71 | 55.5% | 131 | 120 | 91.6% | | |
| Kansas | 145 | 0 | 196 | 31 | 15.8% | 139 | 45 | 32.4% | 170 | 69 | 40.6% | | |
| Kentucky | 1,135 | 0 | 162 | 149 | 92% | 486 | 482 | 99.2% | 511 | 504 | 98.6% | | |
| Louisiana | 1,425 | 0 | 181 | 164 | 90.6% | 310 | 309 | 99.7% | 772 | 771 | 99.9% | | |
| Maine | 79 | 0 | 69 | 57 | 82.6% | 21 | 18 | 85.7% | 6 | 4 | 66.7% | | |
| Maryland ¹ | 651 | 77 | 220 | 135 | 61.4% | 225 | 180 | 80% | 298 | 259 | 86.9% | | |
| Massachusetts | 1,123 | 98 | 230 | 218 | 94.8% | 159 | 153 | 96.2% | 655 | 654 | 99.8% | | |
| Michigan | 2,391 | 97 | 855 | 775 | 90.6% | 534 | 455 | 85.2% | 1,314 | 1,064 | 81% | | |
| Minnesota | 375 | 0 | 281 | 63 | 22.4% | 259 | 141 | 54.4% | 349 | 171 | 49% | | |
| Mississippi ¹ | 396 | 12 | 62 | 29 | 46.8% | 94 | 78 | 83% | 293 | 277 | 94.5% | | |
| Missouri | 427 | 4 | 318 | 140 | 44% | 164 | 103 | 62.8% | 256 | 180 | 70.3% | | |
| Montana | 163 | 0 | 45 | 40 | 88.9% | 39 | 35 | 89.7% | 92 | 88 | 95.7% | | |
| Nebraska | 167 | 1 | 96 | 25 | 26% | 53 | 23 | 43.4% | 136 | 118 | 86.8% | | |
| Nevada | 519 | 1 | 244 | 234 | 95.9% | 250 | 249 | 99.6% | 35 | 35 | 100% | | |
| New Hampshire | 4 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 7.7% | 6 | 1 | 16.7% | 0 | 0 | N/A | | |
| New Jersey | 365 | 3 | 275 | 127 | 46.2% | 155 | 97 | 62.6% | 160 | 138 | 86.3% | | |
| New Mexico | 825 | 205 | 150 | 148 | 98.7% | 313 | 312 | 99.7% | 161 | 160 | 99.4% | | |
| New York | 4,200 | 696 | 692 | 690 | 99.7% | 404 | 398 | 98.5% | 2,447 | 2,416 | 98.7% | | |
| North Carolina | 1,625 | 0 | 317 | 126 | 39.7% | 764 | 668 | 87.4% | 873 | 831 | 95.2% | | |
| North Dakota | 38 | 0 | 24 | 12 | 50% | 6 | 3 | 50% | 46 | 23 | 50% | | |
| Ohio | 1,082 | 5 | 377 | 252 | 66.8% | 505 | 471 | 93.3% | 384 | 354 | 92.2% | | |
| Oklahoma | 389 | 63 | 340 | 146 | 42.9% | 162 | 102 | 63% | 102 | 78 | 76.5% | | |
| Oregon | 740 | 0 | 679 | 667 | 98.2% | 45 | 40 | 88.9% | 43 | 33 | 76.7% | | |
| Pennsylvania | 1,712 | 33 | 534 | 275 | 51.5% | 424 | 358 | 84.4% | 1,115 | 1,046 | 93.8% | | |
| Rhode Island | 76 | 16 | 17 | 5 | 29.4% | 57 | 52 | 91.2% | 3 | 3 | 100% | | |
| South Carolina | 965 | 0 | 108 | 66 | 61.1% | 295 | 285 | 96.6% | 618 | 614 | 99.4% | | |
| South Dakota | 100 | 0 | 11 | 10 | 90.9% | 30 | 27 | 90% | 64 | 63 | 98.4% | | |
| Tennessee ¹ | 886 | 168 | 262 | 220 | 84% | 219 | 210 | 95.9% | 295 | 288 | 97.6% | | |
| Texas | 4,638 | 1 | 1,063 | 316 | 29.7% | 1,885 | 1,394 | 74% | 3,426 | 2,927 | 85.4% | | |
| Utah | 68 | 0 | 23 | 23 | 100% | 35 | 34 | 97.1% | 14 | 11 | 78.6% | | |
| Vermont ¹ | 215 | 80 | 61 | 59 | 96.7% | 51 | 49 | 96.1% | 27 | 27 | 100% | | |
| Virginia | 1,189 | 0 | 425 | 412 | 96.9% | 373 | 372 | 99.7% | 405 | 405 | 100% | | |
| Washington ¹ | 1,292 | 332 | 380 | 364 | 95.8% | 293 | 291 | 99.3% | 308 | 305 | 99% | | |
| West Virginia | 606 | 33 | 138 | 129 | 93.5% | 312 | 306 | 98.1% | 140 | 138 | 98.6% | | |
| Wisconsin | 647 | 0 | 381 | 183 | 48% | 179 | 126 | 70.4% | 365 | 338 | 92.6% | | |
| Wyoming | 24 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 80% | 5 | 5 | 100% | 7 | 7 | 100% | | |
| U.S. Total | 47,766 | 3,285 | 13,804 | 9,440 | 68.4% | 13,671 | 11,589 | 84.8% | 25,395 | 23,207 | 91.4% | | |

¹ Eight states — California, Georgia, Iowa, Maryland, Mississippi, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington — provided individual schools' ISP for participating schools. Therefore, these states may have schools indicated in ISP categories that do not accurately reflect the ISP used to determine federal reimbursements. California reported 61 schools without an ISP; Colorado reported two schools without an ISP; Illinois reported one school without an ISP; and Louisiana reported 181 schools without an ISP. These schools were excluded from this table; therefore, the total number of participating schools indicated in each ISP category is less than the total number of schools adopting CEP statewide.

Table 4: Student Enrollment for School Years (SY) 2014–2015¹, 2015–2016², 2016–2017³, 2017–2018⁴, 2018–2019⁵, 2019–2020⁶, 2020–2021⁷, 2021–2022⁸, 2022–2023, and 2023–2024¹⁰

| State | Enrollment | | | | | | | | | | Change |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| | SY 2014–2015 | SY 2015–2016 | SY 2016–2017 | SY 2017–2018 | SY 2018–2019 | SY 2019–2020 | SY 2020–2021 | SY 2021–2022 | SY 2022–2023 | SY 2023–2024 | SY 2022–2023 to SY 2023–2024 |
| Alabama ¹¹ | 180,789 | 196,802 | 195,853 | 208,748 | 208,929 | 208,068 | 101,387 | 222,189 | 240,153 | 478,063 | 237,910 |
| Alaska ¹¹ | 27,666 | 29,234 | 34,106 | 36,575 | 37,244 | 36,560 | 38,089 | 33,465 | 35,400 | 36,569 | 1,169 |
| Arizona | 30,763 | 55,048 | 94,229 | 116,488 | 145,273 | 178,535 | 193,750 | 171,028 | 187,541 | 193,395 | 5,854 |
| Arkansas ¹¹ | 791 | 20,060 | 55,605 | 71,475 | 80,732 | 91,510 | 104,128 | 103,678 | 99,022 | 96,630 | -2,392 |
| California ¹¹ | 113,513 | 435,900 | 748,533 | 799,646 | 1,690,225 | 1,944,304 | 2,207,703 | 2,174,949 | 3,524,445 | 3,640,659 | 116,214 |
| Colorado ¹¹ | 12,455 | 34,920 | 36,198 | 39,244 | 39,950 | 39,028 | 40,165 | 33,404 | 33,798 | 217,348 | 183,550 |
| Connecticut | 66,524 | 105,547 | 110,322 | 118,067 | 151,552 | 175,155 | 208,824 | 206,444 | 233,711 | 237,123 | 3,412 |
| Delaware ¹¹ | 46,096 | 50,837 | 56,306 | 58,154 | 62,920 | 61,047 | 61,156 | 58,917 | 65,164 | 65,265 | 101 |
| District of Columbia | 47,013 | 51,524 | 56,143 | 58,085 | 62,424 | 61,909 | 65,025 | 62,651 | 65,187 | 69,270 | 4,083 |
| Florida | 274,071 | 474,006 | 579,138 | 705,602 | 858,135 | 872,443 | 913,549 | 933,123 | 1,787,164 | 2,111,632 | 324,468 |
| Georgia | 354,038 | 420,383 | 467,411 | 472,296 | 490,319 | 510,532 | 494,963 | 524,495 | 521,529 | 523,175 | 1,646 |
| Hawaii | 2,640 | 4,650 | 20,150 | 28,750 | 28,994 | 27,747 | 33,120 | 48,964 | 47,228 | 47,812 | 584 |
| Idaho | 18,828 | 32,299 | 33,058 | 33,898 | 28,876 | 21,953 | 21,646 | 22,852 | 17,142 | 21,726 | 4,584 |
| Illinois ¹¹ | 552,751 | 672,831 | 685,101 | 725,241 | 731,062 | 762,195 | 804,574 | 793,894 | 870,519 | 997,346 | 126,827 |
| Indiana | 96,604 | 117,187 | 127,405 | 136,855 | 172,969 | 224,192 | 247,399 | 241,398 | 282,269 | 354,967 | 72,698 |
| Iowa | 32,103 | 46,021 | 50,589 | 53,880 | 67,192 | 81,424 | 83,660 | 83,234 | 107,405 | 114,818 | 7,413 |
| Kansas | 5,992 | 19,641 | 22,661 | 25,722 | 26,338 | 26,038 | 13,563 | 10,912 | 9,648 | 51,981 | 42,333 |
| Kentucky | 279,144 | 385,043 | 436,419 | 479,450 | 501,059 | 522,512 | 539,460 | 532,628 | 549,813 | 584,417 | 34,604 |
| Louisiana ¹¹ | 146,141 | 217,496 | 341,492 | 455,318 | 399,190 | 493,727 | 523,957 | 518,791 | 554,714 | 597,263 | 42,549 |
| Maine | 5,284 | 17,977 | 20,411 | 20,435 | 23,733 | 19,975 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 21,882 | 22,053 | 171 |
| Maryland ¹¹ | 7,624 | 94,496 | 99,484 | 103,814 | 106,218 | 102,788 | 171,613 | 173,972 | 171,905 | 272,093 | 100,188 |
| Massachusetts ¹¹ | 134,071 | 200,948 | 238,872 | 260,364 | 282,030 | 301,465 | 274,211 | 330,684 | 389,055 | 517,861 | 128,806 |
| Michigan ¹¹ | 266,249 | 275,579 | 273,071 | 287,801 | 418,447 | 466,540 | 544,806 | 541,554 | 586,515 | 902,079 | 315,564 |
| Minnesota | 20,688 | 49,944 | 57,003 | 57,957 | 63,057 | 51,818 | 53,982 | 50,873 | 54,787 | 134,943 | 80,156 |
| Mississippi | 136,095 | 148,781 | 151,815 | 147,677 | 164,297 | 145,097 | 162,110 | 158,523 | 149,486 | 161,554 | 12,068 |
| Missouri ¹¹ | 106,126 | 111,319 | 121,962 | 134,996 | 139,884 | 143,692 | 142,542 | 142,654 | 134,522 | 139,800 | 5,278 |
| Montana | 15,802 | 21,161 | 23,290 | 26,180 | 24,777 | 21,741 | 22,340 | 20,656 | 26,032 | 25,897 | -135 |
| Nebraska | 180 | 2,425 | 4,277 | 7,411 | 7,276 | 6,173 | 12,100 | 12,090 | 67,351 | 70,821 | 3,470 |
| Nevada | 7,917 | 15,970 | 71,345 | 95,001 | 100,957 | 218,746 | 293,179 | 271,504 | 362,578 | 365,431 | 2,853 |
| New Hampshire | 0 | 644 | 1,125 | 1,082 | 1,100 | 652 | 621 | 0 | 569 | 727 | 158 |
| New Jersey | 99,840 | 107,277 | 127,108 | 140,199 | 153,533 | 144,312 | 143,586 | 143,264 | 148,078 | 156,709 | 8,631 |
| New Mexico ¹¹ | 119,300 | 149,057 | 164,569 | 177,388 | 175,756 | 186,116 | 187,301 | 176,450 | 220,400 | 256,065 | 35,665 |
| New York | 505,859 | 528,748 | 603,795 | 1,586,981 | 1,646,409 | 1,742,005 | 1,719,661 | 1,755,995 | 1,739,621 | 2,356,379 | 616,758 |
| North Carolina | 310,850 | 357,307 | 367,705 | 433,204 | 418,820 | 455,237 | 463,666 | 415,375 | 458,418 | 803,238 | 344,820 |
| North Dakota | 5,284 | 5,661 | 5,698 | 6,039 | 6,525 | 7,424 | 9,420 | 9,420 | 8,893 | 9,043 | 150 |
| Ohio | 305,451 | 354,727 | 363,860 | 397,594 | 409,467 | 410,400 | 412,116 | 416,274 | 431,250 | 415,865 | -15,385 |

Table 4: Student Enrollment for School Years (SY) 2014–2015¹, 2015–2016², 2016–2017³, 2017–2018⁴, 2018–2019⁵, 2019–2020⁶, 2020–2021⁷, 2021–2022⁸, 2022–2023, and 2023–2024¹⁰ (continued)

| State | Enrollment | | | | | | | | | | Change |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | SY 2014–2015 | SY 2015–2016 | SY 2016–2017 | SY 2017–2018 | SY 2018–2019 | SY 2019–2020 | SY 2020–2021 | SY 2021–2022 | SY 2022–2023 | SY 2023–2024 | SY 2022–2023 to SY 2023–2024 |
| Oklahoma | 43,433 | 66,323 | 104,162 | 148,994 | 152,695 | 154,078 | 99,447 | 123,293 | 124,882 | 131,917 | 7,035 |
| Oregon ¹¹ | 103,601 | 129,635 | 130,336 | 129,766 | 122,553 | 133,615 | 240,052 | 245,362 | 277,613 | 293,812 | 16,199 |
| Pennsylvania ¹¹ | 327,573 | 394,630 | 426,984 | 470,275 | 509,073 | 540,877 | 565,014 | 556,188 | 704,553 | 801,618 | 97,065 |
| Rhode Island | 838 | 6,531 | 10,350 | 16,675 | 18,043 | 30,915 | 32,220 | 31,774 | 37,426 | 37,284 | -142 |
| South Carolina ¹¹ | 111,453 | 173,364 | 201,587 | 235,711 | 249,036 | 255,006 | 265,027 | 254,439 | 240,894 | 570,148 | 329,254 |
| South Dakota | 13,056 | 14,626 | 15,981 | 15,499 | 19,409 | 18,332 | 20,310 | 20,824 | 15,661 | 15,532 | -129 |
| Tennessee | 417,165 | 436,821 | 428,424 | 437,641 | 389,163 | 382,428 | 367,184 | 362,507 | 362,551 | 385,722 | 23,171 |
| Texas ¹¹ | 941,262 | 1,015,384 | 984,976 | 1,184,559 | 1,566,088 | 1,873,513 | 2,111,019 | 2,088,076 | 2,343,402 | 2,600,579 | 257,177 |
| Utah | 7,019 | 8,565 | 8,880 | 12,353 | 20,148 | 20,900 | 19,194 | 15,159 | 19,066 | 27,133 | 8,067 |
| Vermont ¹¹ | 7,386 | 12,751 | 13,508 | 13,946 | 13,768 | 12,053 | 12,239 | 13,045 | 21,019 | 51,371 | 30,352 |
| Virginia ¹¹ | 42,911 | 99,404 | 119,051 | 156,687 | 204,610 | 241,056 | 385,041 | 512,500 | 567,126 | 638,489 | 71,363 |
| Washington | 53,369 | 69,432 | 75,357 | 95,514 | 110,815 | 126,278 | 158,518 | 195,397 | 545,548 | 579,899 | 34,351 |
| West Virginia | 124,978 | 145,057 | 177,875 | 195,075 | 208,960 | 209,566 | 212,362 | 225,803 | 216,667 | 226,092 | 9,425 |
| Wisconsin | 133,232 | 146,330 | 156,519 | 158,325 | 165,513 | 172,782 | 188,219 | 189,098 | 204,917 | 226,678 | 21,761 |
| Wyoming | 1,255 | 1,255 | 1,370 | 1,500 | 1,886 | 1,931 | 2,043 | 1,928 | 1,854 | 3,138 | 1,284 |
| U.S. Total | 6,663,073 | 8,531,558 | 9,701,469 | 11,780,137 | 13,677,429 | 14,936,390 | 15,987,261 | 16,231,697 | 19,886,373 | 23,639,429 | 3,753,056 |

1 Data for the 2014–2015 school year are from *Take Up of Community Eligibility This School Year* (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 2015).

2 Data for the 2015–2016 school year are from *Community Eligibility Adoption Rises for the 2015–2016 School Year, Increasing Access to School Meals* (Food Research & Action Center and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, updated May 2016).

3 Data for the 2016–2017 school year are from *Community Eligibility Continues to Grow in the 2016–2017 School Year* (Food Research & Action Center, March 2017). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2016–2017 school year: one school in California, two schools in Georgia, four schools in Idaho, three schools in Maine, 26 schools in Tennessee, and four schools in South Carolina.

4 Data for the 2017–2018 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2018–2019* (Food Research & Action Center, May 2019). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2017–2018 school year: 12 schools in Alaska, 19 schools in Louisiana, four schools in Mississippi, five schools in Oklahoma, one school in South Carolina, and two schools in Vermont.

5 Data for the 2018–2019 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2018–2019* (Food Research & Action Center, May 2019). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2018–2019 school year: four schools in Hawaii, 182 schools in Louisiana, 25 schools in Mississippi, 14 schools in South Carolina, and three schools in Utah.

6 Data for the 2019–2020 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2019–2020* (Food Research & Action Center, May 2020). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2019–2020 school year: 19 schools in Alabama, 11 schools in California, four schools in the District of Columbia, five schools in Indiana, two schools in Louisiana, seven schools in Maine, two schools in Massachusetts, 10 schools in Michigan, one school in Nevada, four schools in Oregon, 18 schools in South Carolina, one school in South Dakota, five schools in Texas, and one school in Virginia.

7 Data for the 2020–2021 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2020–2021* (Food Research & Action Center, June 2021). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2020–2021 school year: eight schools in Alabama, 43 schools in California, six schools in Florida, eight schools in Georgia, one school in Idaho, one school in Louisiana, 149 schools in Massachusetts, two schools in Michigan, three schools in Missouri, one school in New Mexico, 115 schools in New York, four schools in South Carolina, five schools in Tennessee, eight schools in Texas, one school in Washington.

8 Data for the 2021–2022 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2020–2021* (Food Research & Action Center, June 2022).

9 Maine did not report student enrollment data for the 2020–2021 or 2021–2022 school years.

10 Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2022–2023 school year: 62 schools in Alabama, 11 schools in Arizona, one school in Nevada, one school in New Mexico, 29 schools in New York, 40 schools in South Carolina.

11 The following states had schools that did not provide student enrollment numbers for the 2023–2024 school year: six schools in Alabama, one school in Alaska, two schools in Arkansas, 10 schools in California, four schools in Colorado, two schools in Delaware, one school in Illinois, 188 schools in Louisiana, one school in Massachusetts, two schools in Maryland, one school in Michigan, one school in Missouri, 32 schools in New Mexico, seven schools in Oregon, one school in Pennsylvania, four schools in South Carolina, 34 schools in Texas, 13 schools in Vermont, and two schools in Virginia.

Table 5: Number of Schools Adopting the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for School Years (SY) 2014–2015¹, 2015–2016², 2016–2017³, 2017–2018⁴, 2018–2019⁵, 2019–2020⁶, 2020–2021⁷, 2021–2022⁸, 2022–2023⁹, and 2023–2024

| State | Adopting | | | | | | | | | | Change |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| | SY 2014–2015 | SY 2015–2016 | SY 2016–2017 | SY 2017–2018 | SY 2018–2019 | SY 2019–2020 | SY 2020–2021 | SY 2021–2022 | SY 2022–2023 | SY 2023–2024 | SY 2022–2023 to SY 2023–2024 |
| Alabama | 347 | 392 | 391 | 425 | 444 | 445 | 454 | 490 | 536 | 1013 | 477 |
| Alaska | 123 | 137 | 174 | 213 | 208 | 208 | 216 | 208 | 211 | 217 | 6 |
| Arizona | 73 | 133 | 227 | 296 | 372 | 446 | 500 | 493 | 508 | 522 | 14 |
| Arkansas | 4 | 57 | 139 | 178 | 201 | 229 | 255 | 259 | 250 | 239 | -11 |
| California | 208 | 651 | 1,070 | 1,311 | 2,833 | 3,275 | 3,777 | 3,730 | 6,150 | 6425 | 275 |
| Colorado | 34 | 82 | 91 | 101 | 105 | 105 | 108 | 100 | 106 | 588 | 482 |
| Connecticut | 133 | 212 | 228 | 241 | 307 | 364 | 426 | 420 | 483 | 492 | 9 |
| Delaware | 95 | 108 | 117 | 116 | 212 | 116 | 166 | 114 | 127 | 131 | 4 |
| District of Columbia | 96 | 107 | 115 | 116 | 119 | 115 | 116 | 183 | 180 | 189 | 9 |
| Florida | 548 | 831 | 1,001 | 1,142 | 1,356 | 1,374 | 1,440 | 1,462 | 2,542 | 2887 | 345 |
| Georgia | 589 | 700 | 768 | 787 | 818 | 834 | 819 | 873 | 873 | 892 | 19 |
| Hawaii | 6 | 25 | 43 | 65 | 69 | 68 | 80 | 106 | 106 | 106 | 0 |
| Idaho | 50 | 88 | 92 | 92 | 82 | 61 | 62 | 64 | 61 | 60 | -1 |
| Illinois | 1,041 | 1,322 | 1,363 | 1,499 | 1,541 | 1,588 | 1,693 | 1,823 | 2,087 | 2,344 | 257 |
| Indiana | 214 | 253 | 283 | 287 | 362 | 462 | 515 | 506 | 593 | 735 | 142 |
| Iowa | 78 | 110 | 119 | 123 | 156 | 176 | 177 | 176 | 221 | 244 | 23 |
| Kansas | 18 | 64 | 69 | 72 | 75 | 70 | 44 | 31 | 34 | 145 | 111 |
| Kentucky | 611 | 804 | 888 | 948 | 984 | 1,028 | 1,060 | 1,061 | 1,092 | 1135 | 43 |
| Louisiana | 335 | 484 | 741 | 968 | 1,016 | 1,029 | 1,087 | 1,095 | 1,177 | 1425 | 248 |
| Maine | 21 | 59 | 72 | 71 | 87 | 73 | 73 | 75 | 77 | 79 | 2 |
| Maryland | 25 | 227 | 228 | 242 | 242 | 238 | 364 | 357 | 355 | 651 | 296 |
| Massachusetts | 294 | 462 | 525 | 574 | 613 | 685 | 720 | 718 | 846 | 1123 | 277 |
| Michigan | 625 | 662 | 652 | 715 | 1,105 | 1,259 | 1,466 | 1,468 | 1,638 | 2391 | 753 |
| Minnesota | 56 | 125 | 153 | 154 | 163 | 146 | 153 | 150 | 160 | 375 | 215 |
| Mississippi | 257 | 298 | 333 | 342 | 410 | 337 | 390 | 376 | 370 | 396 | 26 |
| Missouri | 298 | 330 | 367 | 402 | 420 | 427 | 432 | 433 | 416 | 427 | 11 |
| Montana | 93 | 127 | 138 | 158 | 157 | 150 | 154 | 147 | 167 | 163 | -4 |
| Nebraska | 2 | 9 | 15 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 43 | 45 | 151 | 167 | 16 |
| Nevada | 13 | 36 | 122 | 153 | 167 | 316 | 399 | 388 | 501 | 519 | 18 |
| New Hampshire | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 197 | 227 | 270 | 306 | 331 | 319 | 315 | 319 | 321 | 365 | 44 |
| New Mexico | 343 | 429 | 487 | 535 | 546 | 568 | 574 | 556 | 667 | 825 | 158 |
| New York | 1,246 | 1,351 | 1,561 | 3,381 | 3,565 | 3,481 | 3,633 | 3,021 | 3,051 | 4200 | 1,149 |
| North Carolina | 648 | 752 | 787 | 914 | 882 | 941 | 955 | 879 | 974 | 1625 | 651 |
| North Dakota | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 1 |

Table 5: Number of Schools Adopting the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for School Years (SY) 2014–2015¹, 2015–2016², 2016–2017³, 2017–2018⁴, 2018–2019⁵, 2019–2020⁶, 2020–2021⁷, 2021–2022⁸, 2022–2023⁹, and 2023–2024 (continued)

| State | Adopting | | | | | | | | | | Change |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| | SY 2014–2015 | SY 2015–2016 | SY 2016–2017 | SY 2017–2018 | SY 2018–2019 | SY 2019–2020 | SY 2020–2021 | SY 2021–2022 | SY 2022–2023 | SY 2023–2024 | SY 2022–2023 to SY 2023–2024 |
| Ohio | 739 | 842 | 918 | 998 | 998 | 1,022 | 1,025 | 1,062 | 1,141 | 1082 | -59 |
| Oklahoma | 100 | 184 | 301 | 413 | 427 | 408 | 306 | 326 | 384 | 389 | 5 |
| Oregon | 262 | 340 | 346 | 344 | 341 | 353 | 622 | 588 | 709 | 740 | 31 |
| Pennsylvania | 646 | 795 | 861 | 959 | 1,031 | 1,112 | 1,171 | 1,172 | 1,478 | 1712 | 234 |
| Rhode Island | 1 | 10 | 21 | 34 | 37 | 58 | 61 | 61 | 68 | 76 | 8 |
| South Carolina | 226 | 348 | 412 | 471 | 515 | 531 | 531 | 538 | 546 | 965 | 419 |
| South Dakota | 142 | 109 | 124 | 89 | 97 | 97 | 102 | 110 | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| Tennessee | 862 | 924 | 909 | 914 | 836 | 840 | 831 | 845 | 877 | 886 | 9 |
| Texas | 1,477 | 1,665 | 1,678 | 2,070 | 2,716 | 3,250 | 3,700 | 3,740 | 4,231 | 4638 | 407 |
| Utah | 22 | 28 | 29 | 35 | 52 | 51 | 54 | 42 | 50 | 68 | 18 |
| Vermont | 32 | 56 | 60 | 68 | 62 | 53 | 56 | 59 | 92 | 215 | 123 |
| Virginia | 87 | 206 | 255 | 341 | 428 | 511 | 782 | 1,008 | 1,086 | 1189 | 103 |
| Washington | 122 | 172 | 193 | 232 | 273 | 314 | 394 | 482 | 1,213 | 1292 | 79 |
| West Virginia | 369 | 428 | 492 | 518 | 540 | 545 | 558 | 593 | 585 | 606 | 21 |
| Wisconsin | 348 | 381 | 415 | 422 | 438 | 468 | 494 | 498 | 591 | 647 | 56 |
| Wyoming | 5 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 24 | 11 |
| U.S. Total | 14,184 | 18,173 | 20,678 | 24,900 | 28,809 | 30,620 | 33,407 | 33,300 | 40,235 | 47,766 | 7,531 |

1 Data for the 2014–2015 school year are from *Take Up of Community Eligibility This School Year* (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 2015).

2 Data for the 2015–2016 school year are from *Community Eligibility Adoption Rises for the 2015–2016 School Year, Increasing Access to School Meals* (Food Research & Action Center and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, updated May 2016).

3 Data for the 2016–2017 school year are from *Community Eligibility Continues to Grow in the 2016–2017 School Year* (Food Research & Action Center, March 2017).

4 Data for the 2017–2018 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2018–2019* (Food Research & Action Center, May 2019).

5 Data for the 2018–2019 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2018–2019* (Food Research & Action Center, May 2019).

6 Data for the 2019–2020 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2019–2020* (Food Research & Action Center, May 2020).

7 Data for the 2020–2021 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2020–2021* (Food Research & Action Center, June 2021).

8 Data for the 2021–2022 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2021–2022* (Food Research & Action Center, June 2022).

9 Data for the 2022–2023 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2022–2023* (Food Research & Action Center, May 2023).



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