



Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools

School Year 2024–2025

JUNE 2025 | 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
- ▶ National Dairy Council, Dairy Management, Inc.
- ▶ Newman's Own Foundation

This report was written by Erin Kennedy Hysom and Alexis Bylander 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. & Bylander, A. (2025). *Community eligibility: The key to hunger-free schools — School year 2024–2025*. Food Research & Action Center. <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/CEP-Report-2025.pdf>

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 2024–2025



8,872

school districts had one or more schools adopting CEP, an increase of **1,176** school districts, or **15.3 percent**, from the 2023–2024 school year.



64.4 percent

of eligible school districts adopted CEP.



54,234

schools adopted CEP, an increase of **6,655** schools, or **14 percent**, from the 2023–2024 school year.



73.8 percent

of eligible schools adopted CEP.



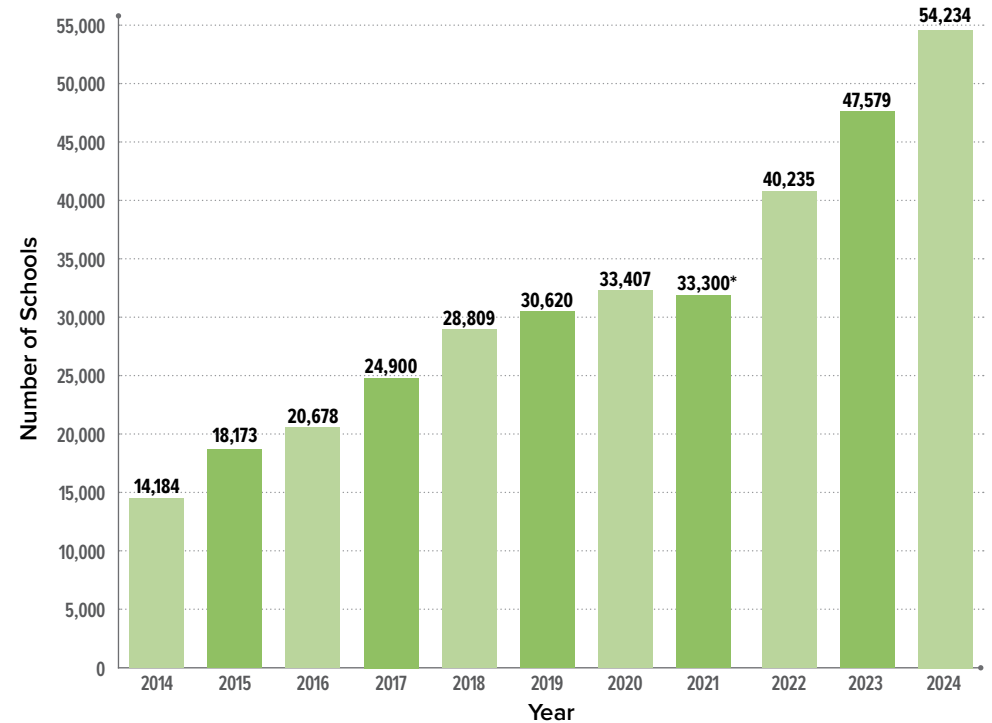
27.2 million

children attended a CEP school, an increase of **3.6 million** children, or **15.3 percent**, from the 2023–2024 school year.

The 2024–2025 school year marked another year of tremendous growth in [Community Eligibility Provision](#) (CEP) adoption, demonstrating the widespread support CEP has across the nation. CEP allows high-need schools to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge, which reduces the stigma that is often present in lunch lines when schools offer free, reduced-price, or paid meals to children based on their household income. Every year since its inception, CEP participation has flourished, with children in every state benefiting from improved access to nutritious school meals. As momentum for [Healthy School Meals for All](#) continues to grow, CEP remains a vital tool in ensuring that all students have access to the nutrition they need to learn and thrive.

CEP is a win for students, schools, and families. [Research](#) consistently supports offering nutritious school meals to all children at no cost. From reducing childhood food insecurity to improving children's diets, school meals provide the foundation for a healthy childhood. When meals are offered to all students at no charge, participation in school meal programs increases, thus furthering the reach of school breakfast and lunch. CEP itself is associated with improvements in school attendance, classroom behavior, and academic performance, all of which support student learning

GRAPH 1: 11-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.

and educational outcomes. And CEP supports the household as well — as families across the country struggle with high costs of living, CEP helps stretch household budgets so that families can purchase better quality meals for their own dinner tables.

CEP also streamlines the administration of school meal programs, eliminating the paperwork burdens associated with collecting, processing, and verifying school meal applications. Rather than collecting school meal applications, CEP schools determine

the percentage of students who are automatically eligible for free school meals without an application. These “identified students” include students who are eligible for free school meals due to participating in other means-tested federal programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and are directly certified through data matching. Direct certification decreases paperwork processing for school nutrition professionals and gives them more time to focus on their mission — feeding children wholesome and

nourishing meals. Identified students also include students certified for free school meals because they meet another criterion, such as experiencing homelessness or being in foster care. It is important to note that the identified students are a subset of the poverty within the school as more students would be certified for free and reduced-price school meals through the application process.

CEP originated under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and became available nationwide during the 2014–2015 school year. In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a final rule lowering the participation threshold from 40 percent identified students to 25 percent. This rule went into full effect this school year, resulting in 17,000 additional schools — a 31 percent increase — eligible to participate in CEP compared to the 2023–2024 school year, although not all eligible schools participated.

CEP further supports school nutrition departments by allowing for operational innovation and eliminating school meal debt. When schools no longer collect fees or track meal service by individual eligibility, they are better able to implement [innovative service models](#), such as breakfast after the bell, that increase participation even further. Additionally, by offering all students nutritious meals at no cost, CEP schools are no longer required to collect meal fees or chase down meal debt, thus improving the dynamic between families and school nutrition professionals.

Despite the numerous benefits CEP brings to students, schools, and the larger community, challenges remain that prevent many eligible schools from participating. Federal reimbursement for meals served in CEP schools is based on the school's [identified student percentage](#) (ISP) — the percentage of children who are eligible for free school meals without an application through direct certification.



About This Report

This report analyzes CEP adoption — nationally and for each state and the District of Columbia — in the 2024–2025 school year, and is based on four measures:

1. the number of CEP-eligible and -adopting schools and school districts;
2. the percent of eligible schools and districts that have adopted CEP;
3. the number and percent of eligible schools that have adopted CEP 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.

The greater the school's ISP, the more federal reimbursement CEP schools receive. The lower the school's ISP, the less federal reimbursement CEP schools receive.

While CEP adoption grew in 2024–2025, many eligible schools were unable to participate. States with policies that provide financial support to school nutrition programs, either through Healthy School Meals for All legislation or CEP subsidies, continue to have better CEP adoption rates than states that lack such policies. The data is clear: CEP creates hunger-free schools, supporting children and their families, but greater federal investment is needed to ensure that all students have access to the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.



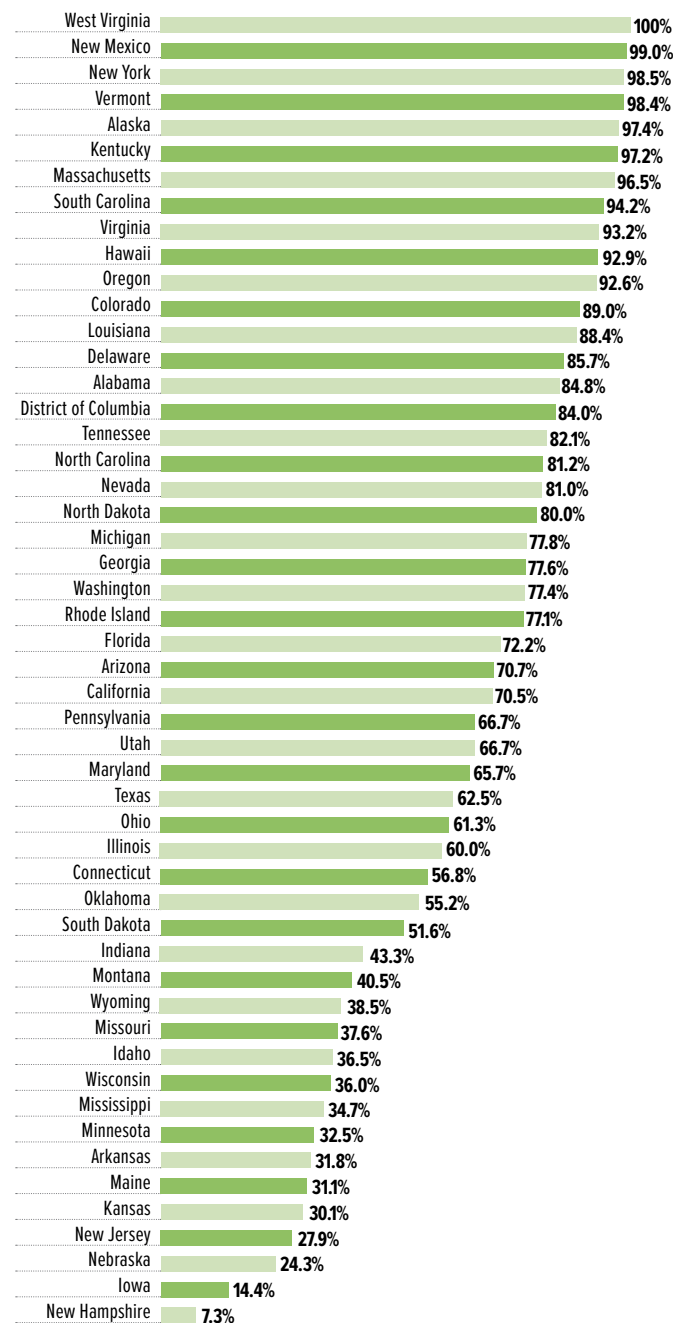
KEY FINDINGS FOR THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Continuing the trend of the last few years, the 2024–2025 school year saw another significant jump in schools and school districts adopting CEP:¹

- ▶ 8,872 school districts had one or more schools adopting CEP, **an increase of 1,176 school districts**, or 15.3 percent, from the 2023–2024 school year.
- ▶ 13,784 school districts were eligible to adopt CEP this school year, **32.8 percent more** than were eligible in the 2023–2024 school year.
- ▶ **64.4 percent** of eligible school districts adopted CEP.
- ▶ 54,234 schools adopted CEP, **an increase of 6,655 schools**, or 14 percent, from the 2023–2024 school year.
- ▶ 73,440 schools were eligible to adopt CEP this school year, **30.6 percent more** than were eligible in the 2023–2024 school year.
- ▶ **73.8 percent** of eligible schools adopted CEP.
- ▶ 25,306 CEP-participating schools, or **46.7 percent of CEP-participating schools**, had an identified student percentage (ISP) of 60 percent or greater.
- ▶ 27.2 million children attended a CEP school, **an increase of 3.6 million children**, or 15.3 percent, from the 2023–2024 school year.



GRAPH 2: Percentage of Eligible School Districts Adopting CEP in School Year 2024–2025



School and School District Adoption

Nationally, 8,872 school districts, 64.4 percent of those eligible, and 54,234 schools, 73.8 percent of those eligible, adopted CEP in the 2024–2025 school year. Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Arizona, and Oregon saw the largest percentage increases in school-level and school district adoption. These gains were likely driven by initiating [Medicaid Direct Certification](#) in the 2023–2024 school year, which increased schools' ISP, and in turn, the amount of federal reimbursement CEP schools received, making CEP implementation more financially feasible.

New Mexico, Vermont, West Virginia, New York, and Massachusetts had the highest percentage of eligible schools adopting CEP. More than 97.7 percent of eligible schools in each state implemented CEP in 2024–2025. These high adoption rates are likely due to [Healthy School Meals for All](#) policies in New Mexico, Vermont, and Massachusetts, and a state subsidy to CEP-participating schools in New York. West Virginia has had higher than average rates of CEP adoption since the program became available nationwide in the [2014–2015 school year](#), which may be connected to [legislation](#) the state passed in 2013 that encourages schools to provide a minimum of two nutritious meals to all students each school day and directs county boards of education to utilize nonprofit or foundation funds to offset the cost of providing free school meals.

Five states decreased the number of schools implementing CEP in 2024–2025 compared to 2023–2024: Mississippi, Arkansas, New Jersey, Louisiana, and New Hampshire. Mississippi and Arkansas experienced the largest decrease in the number of schools and school districts participating in CEP in the 2024–2025 school year. One hundred and twenty-eight fewer schools, 32.3 percent decrease, and 48 fewer school districts, 48 percent decrease, adopted CEP in

Mississippi in 2024–2025 compared to 2023–2024. Fifty-four fewer schools, 22.6 percent decrease, and 14 fewer school districts, 20.3 percent decrease, adopted CEP in Arkansas in the 2024–2025 school year compared to the previous school year. These decreases were likely due to decreasing ISPs, which would cause CEP schools to receive less federal reimbursement.

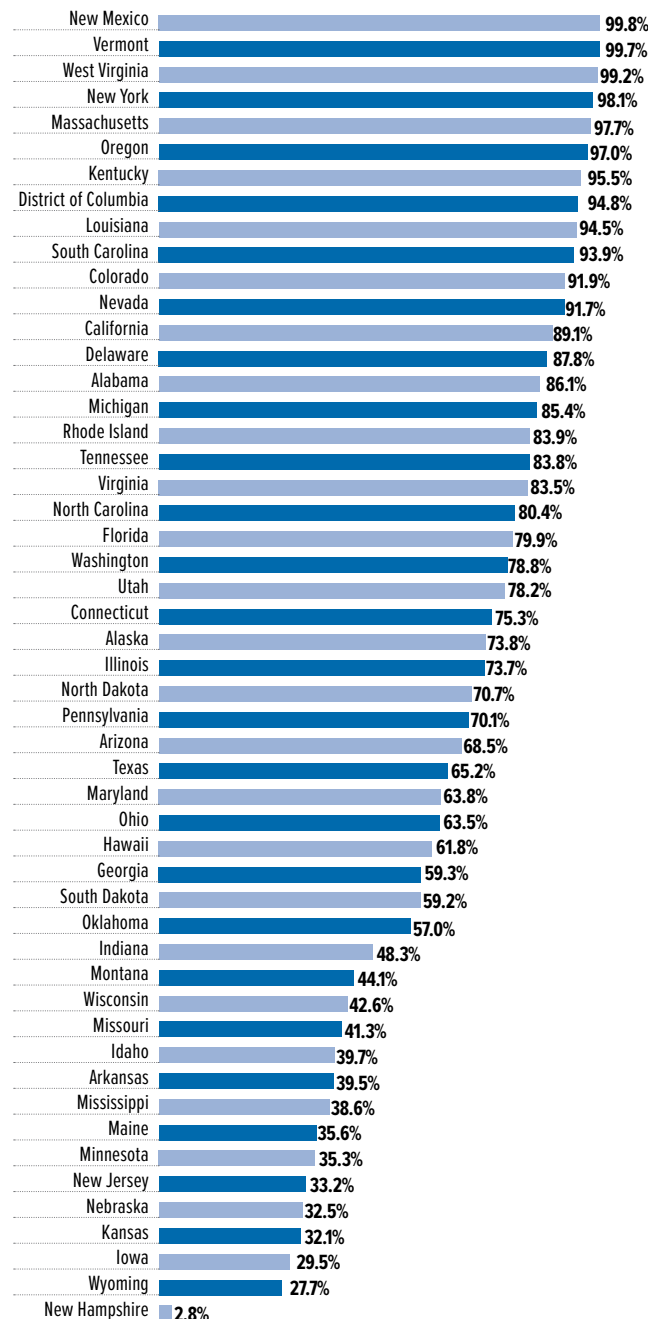
MEDICAID DIRECT CERTIFICATION

[Medicaid Direct Certification](#)² has been a catalyst for CEP adoption. Medicaid Direct Certification increases schools' ISPs, thus increasing the amount of federal reimbursement CEP schools receive and improving the financial viability of schools offering all students school meals at no charge.

In the 2023–2024 school year, 12 new states began directly certifying children for free or reduced-price school meals using Medicaid and household income data: Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wyoming. All of these states experienced increases in the number of schools adopting CEP in 2024–2025, collectively reaching more than 1.8 million additional children through CEP compared to the previous school year.

As of the 2024–2025 school year, 44 states use Medicaid and household income data to directly certify children for free school meals. Six states — Alaska, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, and South Dakota — and the District of Columbia (D.C.) are not participating. Adopting Medicaid Direct Certification in these states and D.C. would increase children's access to nutritious school meals, reduce the administrative burden of processing school meal applications, and increase schools' abilities to implement CEP.

GRAPH 3: Percentage of Eligible Schools Adopting Community Eligibility in School Year 2024–2025



School Adoption by Poverty Level

Due to CEP's reimbursement structure, schools with higher poverty levels, as determined by their ISP, are better able to implement CEP and maintain financial viability. Schools with ISPs greater than 62.5 percent receive the federal free reimbursement rate — the highest per meal rate — for every meal served. Schools with ISPs less than 62.5 percent receive both the federal free reimbursement rate and the federal paid reimbursement rate — the lowest per meal rate — for meals served. The lower the school's ISP, the less federal reimbursement the school receives to implement CEP.

As in previous years, schools with ISPs of 60 percent or greater had the highest CEP adoption rate. In the 2024–2025 school year, 25,306 schools with ISPs greater than 60 percent adopted CEP, representing 93.4 percent of all eligible schools at this poverty level. In 2024–2025, 13,920 schools, 87.1 percent of those

eligible, in the 50 percent to 59 percent ISP range; 9,902 schools, 70.5 percent of those eligible, in the 40 to 49 percent ISP range; and 4,973 schools, 31.3 percent, in the 25 to 39 percent range, adopted CEP.³ States with Healthy School Meals for All policies or CEP subsidies, that subsidize CEP or Healthy School Meals for All, such as Vermont, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Massachusetts saw the highest adoption rates at the lowest eligibility levels, with over 92.9 percent of eligible schools in the 25 to 39 percent ISP range in each state adopting CEP in 2024–2025.

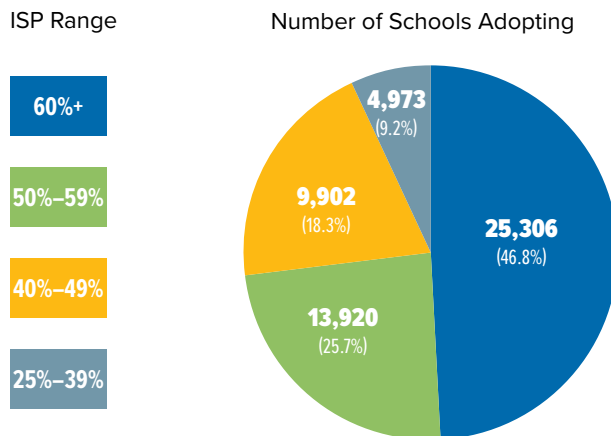
Student Enrollment

Nearly 27.2 million students benefited from CEP in the 2024–2025 school year, 3.6 million more children, a 15.3 percent increase, compared to the 2023–2024 school year. While California saw the highest increase in CEP enrollment, 560,340 additional students,

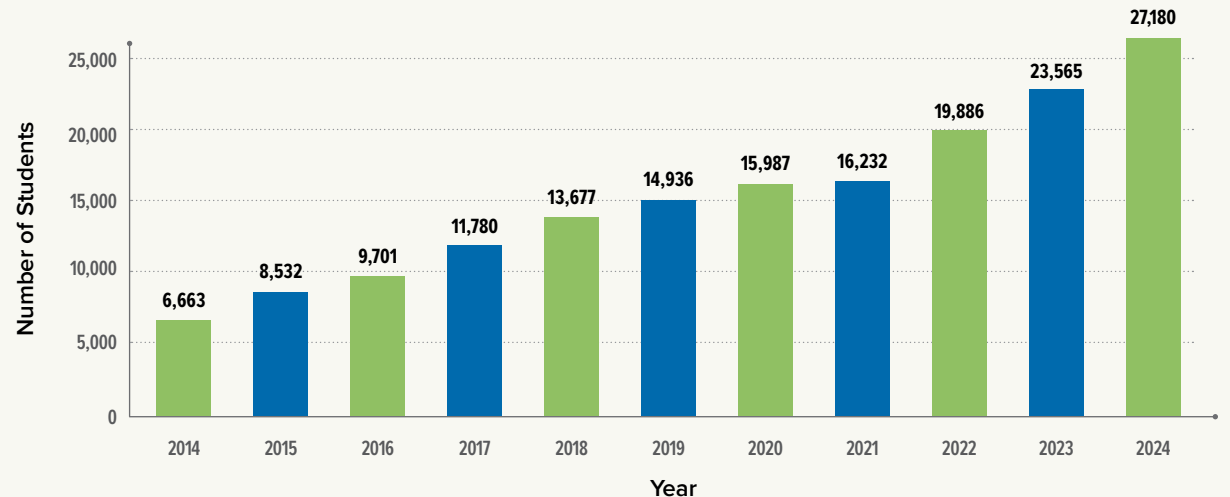
Wyoming (200.9 percent), Colorado (167.3 percent), Arizona (151.8 percent), Oklahoma (109 percent), and Montana (72.6 percent) experienced the greatest percent growth in CEP enrollment. These increases were likely driven by states initiating Medicaid Direct Certification in the 2023–2024 school year.

Five states experienced a decrease in the number of students enrolled in CEP schools: Mississippi (58,595 fewer students, 36.3 percent decrease); Arkansas (23,349 fewer students, 24.2 percent decrease); New Hampshire (120 fewer students, 16.5 percent decrease); New Jersey (12,243 fewer students, 7.8 percent decrease); and Missouri (1,235 fewer students, 0.9 percent decrease). All the decreases correspond to fewer schools adopting CEP in the 2024–2025 school year, except for Missouri, for which 43 CEP-participating schools did not provide enrollment data.

GRAPH 4: CEP Adoption by ISP



GRAPH 5: 11-Year Trend in Student Enrollment in Schools Participating in CEP (in Thousands)



Conclusion

The Community Eligibility Provision has been a gamechanger for school meals, increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch, reducing stigma, eliminating unpaid school meal fees, and streamlining school nutrition operations. CEP creates hunger-free schools where all students have access to the nutrition they need to succeed. While CEP participation has grown tremendously over the last 11 years, far too many eligible schools are still not participating, causing many children to miss out on the myriad of benefits that CEP brings to students and their families.

Efforts to strengthen and expand direct certification are key to increasing students' access to healthy school meals at no cost. The [Expanding Access to School Meals Act of 2025 \(H.R. 2680\)](#) would make Medicaid Direct Certification available nationwide, while simultaneously increasing federal reimbursement for CEP schools. But Medicaid is just one vehicle through which children are directly certified for free school meals. Due to federal regulations that [establish state benchmarks](#), most students are directly certified for free school meals based on their household's participation in SNAP.

Current efforts at the federal level to weaken SNAP would have a negative ripple effect on school meals. When children lose access to SNAP, they also lose automatic access to free school meals and families need to apply for free school meals through a school meals application. This would increase paperwork for school nutrition departments and families, and eligible children can fall through the cracks. With fewer children directly certified for free school meals through SNAP, schools' ISPs would drop. Fewer schools would be eligible to implement CEP, and those that are still eligible would receive less federal reimbursement, making it challenging to cover the cost of offering all students nutritious school meals at no charge.

CEP schools at lower-eligibility levels are already struggling to make ends meet with the current federal reimbursement structure. Additional investments at the federal level are required so all eligible schools can implement CEP and bring the benefits of free, nutritious school meals to all of their students. The [School Meal Modernization and Hunger Elimination Act \(S. 1431\)](#) increases federal funding for CEP schools, expands direct certification categories, and creates a statewide CEP option that would support states' abilities to implement [Healthy School Meals for All](#) policies. Without additional funding, schools at lower eligibility levels will continually face financial barriers that prevent them from adopting CEP.

CEP is an important step toward nationwide [Healthy School Meals for All](#), where every child in every state has access to nutritious school meals regardless of their household circumstance. Children cannot learn on an empty stomach, and Healthy School Meals for All keeps hunger out of classrooms so students can focus on learning for their futures. Congress can ensure that no child goes hungry during the school day, and strengthening CEP is an important way to create classrooms free from hunger.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ▶ [Community Eligibility Database](#)
- ▶ [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 2024–2025 school year from state agencies that administer the federal School Nutrition Programs. Between January 2025 and March 2025, 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; and
- ▶ enrollment.

FRAC followed up with state education agencies for data clarifications, and when necessary, to obtain missing data to the maximum extent practical.

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](#). To examine CEP participation against eligibility, FRAC compared states' May 2024 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 25 percent threshold. Schools that were missing from a state's eligibility list, but appeared on its participation list were treated as eligible.

FRAC gave the 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.

Twenty-four states — Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming — 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 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 used 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. Four states — Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Tennessee — and the District of Columbia (D.C.) provided individual schools' ISP for CEP-participating schools. Therefore, these states may have schools indicated

in ISP categories that do not accurately reflect the ISP used to determine federal reimbursements. ISP data was not included in Alaska's May 1, 2024, eligibility file, and therefore, could not be included for analysis. The following states had schools that did not provide ISP data:

- ▶ seven schools in California
- ▶ 10 schools in Colorado
- ▶ one school in Maine
- ▶ four schools in Michigan
- ▶ six schools in Oregon
- ▶ 13 schools in Tennessee

Additionally, the following states had schools with ISPs greater than 0 percent but less than 25 percent. These schools were not included in the analysis of CEP adoption by ISP (Table 3):

- ▶ 27 schools in D.C.
- ▶ five schools in Idaho
- ▶ eight schools in Maine
- ▶ 26 schools in Minnesota
- ▶ five schools in Nebraska
- ▶ three schools in Ohio
- ▶ 18 schools in Tennessee

There are some instances where ISP data is withheld to protect personally identifiable information. 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 the exact grouped ISP is unknown in this scenario, it can be determined that the school is participating in CEP with an ISP of at least 62.5 percent.

TECHNICAL NOTES CONTINUED

There are instances where states may not have enrollment data for CEP-participating schools. In some instances, states may withhold enrollment data to protect personally identifiable information. Additionally, some CEP-participating schools may be specialty schools where children are enrolled and counted for in another location. In these instances, enrollment data may not be available. Enrollment data is missing for schools in the following states:

- ▶ seven schools in Alabama
- ▶ one school in Arizona
- ▶ 40 schools in California
- ▶ three schools in Delaware
- ▶ five schools in Florida
- ▶ one school in Iowa
- ▶ four schools in Louisiana
- ▶ 13 schools in Maine
- ▶ two schools in Maryland
- ▶ seven schools in Massachusetts
- ▶ 43 schools in Missouri
- ▶ one school in Montana
- ▶ one school in Nevada
- ▶ two schools in New Jersey
- ▶ one school in New Mexico
- ▶ one school in Oklahoma
- ▶ 97 schools in Oregon
- ▶ three schools in Pennsylvania
- ▶ 12 schools in South Carolina

- ▶ 11 schools in Tennessee
- ▶ 17 schools in Texas
- ▶ four schools in West Virginia
- ▶ one school in Wyoming.

Illinois' enrollment data for school year 2023–2024 was updated in this publication. Likewise, Louisiana provided updated 2023–2024 CEP participation data, which reduced the number of eligible and participating schools and school districts from what was previously reported.

The CEP participation data for all years indicated in this report reflects the point in time when the data was received from the state agency and may differ slightly from other participation data sources.

Endnotes

- 1 The percent of eligible schools and school districts adopting CEP in the 2024–2025 school year was less than the percent adopting in 2023–2024 school year due to the USDA rule that increased school and school district eligibility by more than 30 percent.
- 2 The [Medicaid Direct Certification Demonstration Project](#) allows schools in participating states to use Medicaid and household income data to automatically link eligible children to free or reduced-price school meals without having to submit a school meals application. Children directly certified for school meals using Medicaid data must also live in households whose incomes fall below the federal thresholds for free or reduced-price school meals. Only children that are directly certified for free school meals using Medicaid data are counted toward a school's ISP.
- 3 133 of CEP-participating schools did not provide ISP data or included schools with ISPs less than 25 percent, and therefore, were not counted in the school adoption by poverty level analysis. Alaska did not indicate individual school ISP data in their eligibility file, and therefore, an adoption ratio by poverty level could not be calculated.

Table 1: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Take-Up Rate in School Districts for School Years (SY) 2023–2024 and 2024–2025

State	School Year 2023–2024			School Year 2024–2025		
	Eligible for CEP ¹	Adopting CEP	Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible	Eligible for CEP ²	Adopting CEP	Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible
Alabama	150	127	84.7%	164	139	84.8%
Alaska	43	37	86.0%	38	37	97.4%
Arizona	271	190	70.1%	434	307	70.7%
Arkansas	99	69	69.7%	173	55	31.8%
California	791	633	80.0%	999	704	70.5%
Colorado	83	68	81.9%	181	161	89.0%
Connecticut	76	60	78.9%	111	63	56.8%
Delaware	23	20	87.0%	28	24	85.7%
District of Columbia	45	44	97.8%	50	42	84.0%
Florida	350	257	73.4%	381	275	72.2%
Georgia	145	120	82.8%	219	170	77.6%
Hawaii	17	13	76.5%	14	13	92.9%
Idaho	26	20	76.9%	63	23	36.5%
Illinois	637	462	72.5%	806	484	60.0%
Indiana	326	164	50.3%	418	181	43.3%
Iowa	134	34	25.4%	291	42	14.4%
Kansas	141	34	24.1%	156	47	30.1%
Kentucky	175	170	97.1%	177	172	97.2%
Louisiana ³	148	130	87.8%	147	130	88.4%
Maine	36	27	75.0%	119	37	31.1%
Maryland	29	24	82.8%	35	23	65.7%
Massachusetts	221	215	97.3%	288	278	96.5%
Michigan	773	557	72.1%	752	585	77.8%
Minnesota	337	139	41.2%	474	154	32.5%
Mississippi	119	100	84.0%	150	52	34.7%
Missouri	222	95	42.8%	282	106	37.6%
Montana	65	54	83.1%	195	79	40.5%
Nebraska	76	37	48.7%	202	49	24.3%
Nevada	35	33	94.3%	42	34	81.0%
New Hampshire	12	3	25.0%	41	3	7.3%
New Jersey	161	88	54.7%	297	83	27.9%
New Mexico	186	185	99.5%	202	200	99.0%
New York	843	836	99.2%	872	859	98.5%
North Carolina	179	147	82.1%	197	160	81.2%
North Dakota	23	23	100.0%	30	24	80.0%
Ohio	460	357	77.6%	871	534	61.3%
Oklahoma	236	114	48.3%	484	267	55.2%
Oregon	139	122	87.8%	203	188	92.6%
Pennsylvania	562	403	71.7%	657	438	66.7%
Rhode Island	29	19	65.5%	35	27	77.1%
South Carolina	96	91	94.8%	103	97	94.2%
South Dakota	32	32	100.0%	62	32	51.6%
Tennessee	127	104	81.9%	179	147	82.1%
Texas	952	621	65.2%	1,096	685	62.5%
Utah	21	20	95.2%	30	20	66.7%
Vermont	45	43	95.6%	61	60	98.4%
Virginia	127	123	96.9%	133	124	93.2%
Washington	223	210	94.2%	287	222	77.4%
West Virginia	56	55	98.2%	55	55	100.0%
Wisconsin	270	158	58.5%	461	166	36.0%
Wyoming	10	9	90.0%	39	15	38.5%
U.S. Total	10,382	7,696	74.1%	13,784	8,872	64.4%

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 if they had at least one school that had already adopted community eligibility.

2 For the 2024–2025 school year data, school districts are defined as eligible if they include at least one school with an ISP of 25 percent or higher, or if they had at least one school that had already adopted community eligibility.

3 Louisiana provided updated data for the 2023–2024 school year, which decreased the number of eligible school districts by seven and the number of participating school districts by 21 than previously reported.

Table 2: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Take-Up Rate in Schools for School Years (SY) 2023–2024 and 2024–2025

State	School Year 2023–2024			School Year 2024–2025		
	Eligible for CEP ¹	Adopting CEP	Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible	Eligible for CEP ²	Adopting CEP	Percentage Adopting CEP of Total Eligible
Alabama	1,211	1,013	83.6%	1,316	1,133	86.1%
Alaska	247	217	87.9%	309	228	73.8%
Arizona	773	522	67.5%	1,502	1,029	68.5%
Arkansas	315	239	75.9%	468	185	39.5%
California	6,832	6,425	94.0%	8,114	7,226	89.1%
Colorado	625	588	94.1%	1,476	1,357	91.9%
Connecticut	530	492	92.8%	688	518	75.3%
Delaware	139	131	94.2%	181	159	87.8%
District of Columbia	205	189	92.2%	213	202	94.8%
Florida	3,407	2,887	84.7%	3,700	2,956	79.9%
Georgia	1,021	892	87.4%	2,150	1,275	59.3%
Hawaii	118	106	89.8%	186	115	61.8%
Idaho	69	60	87.0%	189	75	39.7%
Illinois	2,719	2,344	86.2%	3,247	2,393	73.7%
Indiana	1,235	735	59.5%	1,690	817	48.3%
Iowa	463	244	52.7%	902	266	29.5%
Kansas	505	145	28.7%	552	177	32.1%
Kentucky	1,159	1,135	97.9%	1,211	1,157	95.5%
Louisiana ³	1,300	1,238	95.2%	1,301	1,230	94.5%
Maine	96	79	82.3%	320	114	35.6%
Maryland	820	651	79.4%	1,097	700	63.8%
Massachusetts	1,142	1,123	98.3%	1,407	1,375	97.7%
Michigan	2,800	2,391	85.4%	3,157	2,697	85.4%
Minnesota	889	375	42.2%	1,404	495	35.3%
Mississippi	461	396	85.9%	694	268	38.6%
Missouri	742	427	57.5%	1,074	444	41.3%
Montana	176	163	92.6%	567	250	44.1%
Nebraska	286	167	58.4%	665	216	32.5%
Nevada	530	519	97.9%	603	553	91.7%
New Hampshire	21	4	19.0%	107	3	2.8%
New Jersey	593	365	61.6%	1,034	343	33.2%
New Mexico	829	825	99.5%	859	857	99.8%
New York	4,239	4,200	99.1%	4,408	4,325	98.1%
North Carolina	1,954	1,625	83.2%	2,356	1,895	80.4%
North Dakota	38	38	100.0%	58	41	70.7%
Ohio	1,271	1,082	85.1%	2,605	1,653	63.5%
Oklahoma	667	389	58.3%	1,485	846	57.0%
Oregon	767	740	96.5%	1,227	1,190	97.0%
Pennsylvania	2,106	1,712	81.3%	2,605	1,827	70.1%
Rhode Island	93	76	81.7%	143	120	83.9%
South Carolina	1,021	965	94.5%	1,071	1,006	93.9%
South Dakota	105	100	95.2%	174	103	59.2%
Tennessee	944	886	93.9%	1,545	1,295	83.8%
Texas	6,375	4,638	72.8%	7,417	4,834	65.2%
Utah	72	68	94.4%	87	68	78.2%
Vermont	219	215	98.2%	294	293	99.7%
Virginia	1,203	1,189	98.8%	1,500	1,253	83.5%
Washington	1,313	1,292	98.4%	1,663	1,311	78.8%
West Virginia	623	606	97.3%	631	626	99.2%
Wisconsin	925	647	69.9%	1,611	686	42.6%
Wyoming	25	24	96.0%	177	49	27.7%
U.S. Total	56,218	47,579	84.6%	73,440	54,234	73.8%

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 were reported as participating in community eligibility.

2 For the 2024–2025 school year data, schools are defined as eligible if they have an ISP of 25 percent or higher, or if they were reported as participating in community eligibility.

3 Louisiana provided updated data for the 2023–2024 school year, which decreased the number of eligible schools by 144 and the number of participating schools by 187 than previously reported.

Table 3: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Take-Up Rate by Schools' Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for School Year 2024–2025

State	Total Adopting	25–39%			40–49%			50–59%			60%+		
		Eligible	Adopting	Percentage Adopting	Eligible	Adopting	Percentage Adopting	Eligible	Adopting	Percentage Adopting	Eligible	Adopting	Percentage Adopting
Alabama	1,133	68	0	0.0%	82	47	57.3%	216	180	83.3%	950	906	95.4%
Alaska ¹	228	N/A	23	N/A	N/A	55	N/A	N/A	47	N/A	N/A	103	N/A
Arizona	1,029	226	14	6.2%	199	66	33.2%	276	217	78.6%	800	732	91.5%
Arkansas	185	326	87	26.7%	95	63	66.3%	24	12	50.0%	23	23	100.0%
California ²	7,226	1,621	1,096	67.6%	2,350	2,192	93.3%	2,604	2,492	95.7%	1,532	1,439	93.9%
Colorado ³	1,357	599	512	85.5%	257	240	93.4%	210	204	97.1%	400	391	97.8%
Connecticut	518	168	34	20.2%	151	125	82.8%	132	123	93.2%	237	236	99.6%
Delaware	159	68	50	73.5%	102	99	97.1%	9	9	100.0%	2	1	50.0%
District of Columbia ^{2,4}	202	29	20	69.0%	16	16	100.0%	32	32	100.0%	109	107	98.2%
Florida	2,956	400	75	18.8%	346	165	47.7%	1,149	1,040	90.5%	1,805	1,676	92.9%
Georgia	1,275	296	3	1.0%	262	44	16.8%	467	278	59.5%	1,125	950	84.4%
Hawaii	115	82	13	15.9%	32	30	93.8%	56	56	100.0%	16	16	100.0%
Idaho ^{2,4}	75	130	32	24.6%	39	26	66.7%	10	7	70.0%	5	5	100.0%
Illinois	2,393	588	31	5.3%	410	246	60.0%	564	482	85.5%	1,685	1,634	97.0%
Indiana	817	409	18	4.4%	400	122	30.5%	313	175	55.9%	568	502	88.4%
Iowa	266	428	14	3.3%	168	15	8.9%	178	122	68.5%	128	115	89.8%
Kansas	177	255	9	3.5%	108	30	27.8%	84	54	64.3%	105	84	80.0%
Kentucky	1,157	64	27	42.2%	135	123	91.1%	334	334	100.0%	678	673	99.3%
Louisiana	1,230	49	4	8.2%	174	154	88.5%	245	240	98.0%	833	832	99.9%
Maine ^{3,4}	114	188	27	14.4%	84	48	57.1%	34	25	73.5%	5	5	100.0%
Maryland	700	264	0	0.0%	133	48	36.1%	475	443	93.3%	225	209	92.9%
Massachusetts	1,375	367	341	92.9%	211	211	100.0%	168	164	97.6%	661	659	99.7%
Michigan ³	2,697	641	424	66.1%	740	692	93.5%	517	469	90.7%	1,255	1,108	88.3%
Minnesota ^{2,4}	495	485	66	13.6%	270	53	19.6%	222	97	43.7%	401	253	63.1%
Mississippi	268	230	7	3.0%	129	36	27.9%	185	120	64.9%	150	105	70.0%
Missouri	444	301	0	0.0%	191	22	11.5%	83	15	18.1%	499	407	81.6%
Montana	250	257	47	18.3%	110	44	40.0%	65	39	60.0%	135	120	88.9%
Nebraska ^{2,4}	216	311	21	6.8%	136	35	25.7%	79	43	54.4%	134	112	83.6%
Nevada	553	79	38	48.1%	221	214	96.8%	275	273	99.3%	28	28	100.0%
New Hampshire	3	77	1	1.3%	19	1	5.3%	9	1	11.1%	2	0	0.0%
New Jersey	343	476	22	4.6%	288	137	47.6%	170	110	64.7%	100	74	74.0%
New Mexico	857	132	131	99.2%	337	337	100.0%	228	227	99.6%	162	162	100.0%
New York	4,325	792	786	99.2%	662	654	98.8%	436	431	98.9%	2,518	2,454	97.5%
North Carolina	1,895	347	53	15.3%	231	102	44.2%	628	597	95.1%	1,150	1,143	99.4%
North Dakota	41	24	7	29.2%	5	5	100.0%	5	5	100.0%	24	24	100.0%
Ohio ⁴	1,653	734	180	24.5%	461	231	50.1%	435	331	76.1%	972	908	93.4%
Oklahoma	846	411	11	2.7%	222	93	41.9%	404	338	83.7%	448	404	90.2%
Oregon ³	1,190	359	342	95.3%	340	331	97.4%	339	332	97.9%	183	179	97.8%
Pennsylvania	1,827	587	44	7.5%	449	292	65.0%	428	390	91.1%	1,141	1,101	96.5%
Rhode Island	120	24	2	8.3%	16	15	93.8%	21	21	100.0%	82	82	100.0%
South Carolina	1,006	39	7	17.9%	93	74	79.6%	241	231	95.9%	698	694	99.4%
South Dakota	103	55	1	1.8%	19	7	36.8%	30	26	86.7%	70	69	98.6%
Tennessee ^{2,3,4}	1,295	263	99	37.6%	255	206	80.8%	319	298	93.4%	677	661	97.6%
Texas	4,834	1,167	60	5.1%	1,051	392	37.3%	2,028	1,605	79.1%	3,171	2,777	87.6%
Utah	68	18	0	0.0%	23	23	100.0%	34	34	100.0%	12	11	91.7%
Vermont	293	89	89	100.0%	106	105	99.1%	86	86	100.0%	13	13	100.0%
Virginia	1,253	266	35	13.2%	437	421	96.3%	383	383	100.0%	414	414	100.0%
Washington	1,311	308	1	0.3%	966	936	96.9%	236	231	97.9%	153	143	93.5%
West Virginia	626	38	33	86.8%	76	76	100.0%	311	311	100.0%	206	206	100.0%
Wisconsin	686	648	19	2.9%	383	182	47.5%	199	136	68.3%	381	349	91.6%
Wyoming	49	109	17	15.6%	48	21	43.8%	9	4	44.4%	11	7	63.6%
U.S. Total	54,234	15,892	4,973	31.3%	14,038	9,902	70.5%	15,985	13,920	87.1%	27,082	25,306	93.4%

- 1 Alaska did not provide ISP data in their eligibility file.
- 2 Individual ISP was used for CEP-participating schools in four states — Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, Tennessee — and the District of Columbia. Therefore, these states may have schools indicated in ISP categories that do not accurately reflect the ISP used to determine federal reimbursements.
- 3 ISP data was missing from schools in six states. California reported seven schools without an ISP; Colorado reported 10 schools without an ISP; Maine reported one school without an ISP; Michigan reported four schools without an ISP; Oregon reported six schools without an ISP; and Tennessee reported 13 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.
- 4 Six states and the District of Columbia reported schools with ISPs below 25 percent — Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Tennessee. Schools below 25 percent ISP were excluded from analysis for 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 in CEP Schools for School Years (SY) 2014–2015¹, 2015–2016², 2016–2017³, 2017–2018⁴, 2018–2019⁵, 2019–2020⁶, 2020–2021⁷, 2021–2022⁸, 2022–2023⁹, 2023–2024¹⁰, and 2024–2025

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 2024–2025	SY 2023–2024 to SY 2024–2025
Alabama ¹¹	180,789	196,802	195,853	208,748	208,929	208,068	101,387	222,189	240,153	478,063	553,390	75,327
Alaska	27,666	29,234	34,106	36,575	37,244	36,560	38,089	33,465	35,400	36,569	38,622	2,053
Arizona ¹¹	30,763	55,048	94,229	116,488	145,273	178,535	193,750	171,028	187,541	193,395	487,011	293,616
Arkansas	791	20,060	55,605	71,475	80,732	91,510	104,128	103,678	99,022	96,630	73,281	-23,349
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	4,200,999	560,340
Colorado	12,455	34,920	36,198	39,244	39,950	39,028	40,165	33,404	33,798	217,348	580,959	363,611
Connecticut	66,524	105,547	110,322	118,067	151,552	175,155	208,824	206,444	233,711	237,123	251,217	14,094
Delaware ¹¹	46,096	50,837	56,306	58,154	62,920	61,047	61,156	58,917	65,164	65,265	80,610	15,345
District of Columbia	47,013	51,524	56,143	58,085	62,424	61,909	65,025	62,651	65,187	69,270	77,090	7,820
Florida ¹¹	274,071	474,006	579,138	705,602	858,135	872,443	913,549	933,123	1,787,164	2,111,632	2,169,720	58,088
Georgia	354,038	420,383	467,411	472,296	490,319	510,532	494,963	524,495	521,529	523,175	796,831	273,656
Hawaii	2,640	4,650	20,150	28,750	28,994	27,747	33,120	48,964	47,228	47,812	49,164	1,352
Idaho	18,828	32,299	33,058	33,898	28,876	21,953	21,646	22,852	17,142	21,726	25,055	3,329
Illinois ¹¹	552,751	672,831	685,101	725,241	731,062	762,195	804,574	793,894	870,519	920,203	965,047	44,844
Indiana	96,604	117,187	127,405	136,855	172,969	224,192	247,399	241,398	282,269	354,967	401,103	46,136
Iowa ¹¹	32,103	46,021	50,589	53,880	67,192	81,424	83,660	83,234	107,405	114,818	122,946	8,128
Kansas	5,992	19,641	22,661	25,722	26,338	26,038	13,563	10,912	9,648	51,981	59,002	7,021
Kentucky	279,144	385,043	436,419	479,450	501,059	522,512	539,460	532,628	549,813	584,417	600,027	15,610
Louisiana ¹¹	146,141	217,496	341,492	455,318	399,190	493,727	523,957	518,791	554,714	600,242	604,231	3,989
Maine ¹¹	5,284	17,977	20,411	20,435	23,733	19,975	Not Reported	Not Reported	21,882	22,053	33,795	11,742
Maryland ¹¹	7,624	94,496	99,484	103,814	106,218	102,788	171,613	173,972	171,905	272,093	392,075	119,982
Massachusetts ¹¹	134,071	200,948	238,872	260,364	282,030	301,465	274,211	330,684	389,055	517,861	631,248	113,387
Michigan	266,249	275,579	273,071	287,801	418,447	466,540	544,806	541,554	586,515	902,079	1,044,014	141,935
Minnesota	20,688	49,944	57,003	57,957	63,057	51,818	53,982	50,873	54,787	134,943	202,642	67,699
Mississippi	136,095	148,781	151,815	147,677	164,297	145,097	162,110	158,523	149,486	161,554	102,959	-58,595
Missouri ¹¹	106,126	111,319	121,962	134,996	139,884	143,692	142,542	142,654	134,522	139,800	138,565	-1,235
Montana ¹¹	15,802	21,161	23,290	26,180	24,777	21,741	22,340	20,656	26,032	25,897	44,710	18,813
Nebraska	180	2,425	4,277	7,411	7,276	6,173	12,100	12,090	67,351	70,821	92,254	21,433
Nevada ¹¹	7,917	15,970	71,345	95,001	100,957	218,746	293,179	271,504	362,578	365,431	383,714	18,283
New Hampshire	0	644	1,125	1,082	1,100	652	621	0	569	727	607	-120
New Jersey ¹¹	99,840	107,277	127,108	140,199	153,533	144,312	143,586	143,264	148,078	156,709	144,466	-12,243
New Mexico ¹¹	119,300	149,057	164,569	177,388	175,756	186,116	187,301	176,450	220,400	256,065	285,778	29,713
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	2,413,377	56,998
North Carolina	310,850	357,307	367,705	433,204	418,820	455,237	463,666	415,375	458,418	803,238	949,368	146,130
North Dakota	5,284	5,661	5,698	6,039	6,525	7,424	9,420	9,420	8,893	9,043	9,163	120
Ohio	305,451	354,727	363,860	397,594	409,467	410,400	412,116	416,274	431,250	415,865	684,387	268,522
Oklahoma ¹¹	43,433	66,323	104,162	148,994	152,695	154,078	99,447	123,293	124,882	131,917	275,690	143,773
Oregon ¹¹	103,601	129,635	130,336	129,766	122,553	133,615	240,052	245,362	277,613	293,812	486,657	192,845
Pennsylvania ¹¹	327,573	394,630	426,984	470,275	509,073	540,877	565,014	556,188	704,553	801,618	859,396	57,778

Table 4: Student Enrollment in CEP Schools for School Years (SY) 2014–2015¹, 2015–2016², 2016–2017³, 2017–2018⁴, 2018–2019⁵, 2019–2020⁶, 2020–2021⁷, 2021–2022⁸, 2022–2023⁹, 2023–2024¹⁰, and 2024–2025 (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 2024–2025	SY 2023–2024 to SY 2024–2025
Rhode Island	838	6,531	10,350	16,675	18,043	30,915	32,220	31,774	37,426	37,284	56,457	19,173
South Carolina ¹¹	111,453	173,364	201,587	235,711	249,036	255,006	265,027	254,439	240,894	570,148	602,988	32,840
South Dakota	13,056	14,626	15,981	15,499	19,409	18,332	20,310	20,824	15,661	15,532	15,540	8
Tennessee ¹¹	417,165	436,821	428,424	437,641	389,163	382,428	367,184	362,507	362,551	385,722	571,198	185,476
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	2,720,652	120,073
Utah	7,019	8,565	8,880	12,353	20,148	20,900	19,194	15,159	19,066	27,133	27,133	0
Vermont	7,386	12,751	13,508	13,946	13,768	12,053	12,239	13,045	21,019	51,371	71,420	20,049
Virginia	42,911	99,404	119,051	156,687	204,610	241,056	385,041	512,500	567,126	638,489	711,583	73,094
Washington	53,369	69,432	75,357	95,514	110,815	126,278	158,518	195,397	545,548	579,899	602,614	22,715
West Virginia ¹¹	124,978	145,057	177,875	195,075	208,960	209,566	212,362	225,803	216,667	226,092	238,455	12,363
Wisconsin	133,232	146,330	156,519	158,325	165,513	172,782	188,219	189,098	204,917	226,678	240,832	14,154
Wyoming ¹¹	1,255	1,255	1,370	1,500	1,886	1,931	2,043	1,928	1,854	3,138	9,443	6,305
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	23,565,265	27,179,485	3,614,220

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 2021–2022* (Food Research & Action Center, June 2022). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2021–2022 school year: 17 schools in Alabama, three schools in Alaska, one school in Colorado, one school in Idaho, two schools in Kentucky, four schools in Louisiana, one school in Maryland, one school in Montana, one school in North Carolina, two schools in Oregon, three schools in Tennessee. Maine did not report student enrollment data for the 2020–2021 or 2021–2022 school years.

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). 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.

10 Data for the 2023–2024 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2023–2024* (Food Research & Action Center, December 2024). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information 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.

11 Data for the 2024–2025 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2024–2025* (Food Research & Action Center, June 2025). Some schools did not provide student enrollment information for the 2024–2025 school year: seven schools in Alabama, one school in Arizona, 40 schools in California, three schools in Delaware, five schools in Florida, one school in Iowa, four schools in Louisiana, 13 schools in Maine, two schools in Maryland, seven schools in Massachusetts, 43 schools in Missouri, one school in Montana, one school in Nevada, two schools in New Jersey, one school in New Mexico, one school in Oklahoma, 97 schools in Oregon, three schools in Pennsylvania, 12 schools in South Carolina, 11 schools in Tennessee, 17 schools in Texas, four schools in West Virginia, and one school in Wyoming. Illinois and Louisiana's 2023–2024 enrollment data was updated in this report.

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, 2023–2024¹⁰, and 2024–2025

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 2024–2025	SY 2023–2024 to SY 2024–2025
Alabama	347	392	391	425	444	445	454	490	536	1,013	1,133	120
Alaska	123	137	174	213	208	208	216	208	211	217	228	11
Arizona	73	133	227	296	372	446	500	493	508	522	1,029	507
Arkansas	4	57	139	178	201	229	255	259	250	239	185	-54
California	208	651	1,070	1,311	2,833	3,275	3,777	3,730	6,150	6,425	7,226	801
Colorado	34	82	91	101	105	105	108	100	106	588	1,357	769
Connecticut	133	212	228	241	307	364	426	420	483	492	518	26
Delaware	95	108	117	116	212	116	166	114	127	131	159	28
District of Columbia	96	107	115	116	119	115	116	183	180	189	202	13
Florida	548	831	1,001	1,142	1,356	1,374	1,440	1,462	2,542	2,887	2,956	69
Georgia	589	700	768	787	818	834	819	873	873	892	1,275	383
Hawaii	6	25	43	65	69	68	80	106	106	106	115	9
Idaho	50	88	92	92	82	61	62	64	61	60	75	15
Illinois	1,041	1,322	1,363	1,499	1,541	1,588	1,693	1,823	2,087	2,344	2,393	49
Indiana	214	253	283	287	362	462	515	506	593	735	817	82
Iowa	78	110	119	123	156	176	177	176	221	244	266	22
Kansas	18	64	69	72	75	70	44	31	34	145	177	32
Kentucky	611	804	888	948	984	1,028	1,060	1,061	1,092	1,135	1,157	22
Louisiana ¹⁰	335	484	741	968	1,016	1,029	1,087	1,095	1,177	1,238	1,230	-8
Maine	21	59	72	71	87	73	73	75	77	79	114	35
Maryland	25	227	228	242	242	238	364	357	355	651	700	49
Massachusetts	294	462	525	574	613	685	720	718	846	1,123	1,375	252
Michigan	625	662	652	715	1,105	1,259	1,466	1,468	1,638	2,391	2,697	306
Minnesota	56	125	153	154	163	146	153	150	160	375	495	120
Mississippi	257	298	333	342	410	337	390	376	370	396	268	-128
Missouri	298	330	367	402	420	427	432	433	416	427	444	17
Montana	93	127	138	158	157	150	154	147	167	163	250	87
Nebraska	2	9	15	26	26	26	43	45	151	167	216	49
Nevada	13	36	122	153	167	316	399	388	501	519	553	34
New Hampshire	0	2	3	3	4	3	3	0	3	4	3	-1
New Jersey	197	227	270	306	331	319	315	319	321	365	343	-22
New Mexico	343	429	487	535	546	568	574	556	667	825	857	32
New York	1,246	1,351	1,561	3,381	3,565	3,481	3,633	3,021	3,051	4,200	4,325	125
North Carolina	648	752	787	914	882	941	955	879	974	1,625	1,895	270
North Dakota	23	24	25	26	29	31	37	37	37	38	41	3

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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 2024–2025	SY 2023–2024 to SY 2024–2025
Ohio	739	842	918	998	998	1,022	1,025	1,062	1,141	1,082	1,653	571
Oklahoma	100	184	301	413	427	408	306	326	384	389	846	457
Oregon	262	340	346	344	341	353	622	588	709	740	1,190	450
Pennsylvania	646	795	861	959	1,031	1,112	1,171	1,172	1,478	1,712	1,827	115
Rhode Island	1	10	21	34	37	58	61	61	68	76	120	44
South Carolina	226	348	412	471	515	531	531	538	546	965	1,006	41
South Dakota	142	109	124	89	97	97	102	110	100	100	103	3
Tennessee	862	924	909	914	836	840	831	845	877	886	1,295	409
Texas	1,477	1,665	1,678	2,070	2,716	3,250	3,700	3,740	4,231	4,638	4,834	196
Utah	22	28	29	35	52	51	54	42	50	68	68	0
Vermont	32	56	60	68	62	53	56	59	92	215	293	78
Virginia	87	206	255	341	428	511	782	1,008	1,086	1,189	1,253	64
Washington	122	172	193	232	273	314	394	482	1,213	1,292	1,311	19
West Virginia	369	428	492	518	540	545	558	593	585	606	626	20
Wisconsin	348	381	415	422	438	468	494	498	591	647	686	39
Wyoming	5	5	7	10	11	14	14	13	13	24	49	25
U.S. Total	14,184	18,173	20,678	24,900	28,809	30,620	33,407	33,300	40,235	47,579	54,234	6,655

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).

10 Data for the 2023–2024 school year are from *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2023–2024* (Food Research & Action Center, June 2024). Louisiana provided updated data for the 2023–2024 school year, which decreased the number of participating schools by 187 than previously reported.



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