



**School Breakfast Scorecard**

**School Year 2019–2020**

FEBRUARY 2021 | [WWW.FRAC.ORG](http://WWW.FRAC.ORG)

# School Breakfast Scorecard

## School Year 2019–2020

FEBRUARY 2021

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### About FRAC

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) 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](http://www.frac.org).

## Executive Summary

**In the 2019–2020 School Year**  
(September–February):



**MORE THAN**  
**12.6 million children**  
received a free or reduced-price  
school breakfast



**NEARLY**  
**186,000 additional**  
students received breakfast

**THERE HAS BEEN A**  
**1.5% increase**  
in breakfast participation



**ALMOST**  
**37 million additional**  
breakfasts were served

Before school districts across the country were forced to close their doors in the spring due to COVID-19, the School Breakfast Program was providing much-needed nutrition to just over 12.6 million low-income children on an average school day from September through February of the 2019–2020 school year. Nearly 186,000 additional students received a free or reduced-price school breakfast compared to the same time period during the previous school year, allowing more children to be connected to the numerous educational and health benefits associated with the School Breakfast Program.

The progress seen in the 2019–2020 school year — pre-pandemic — builds upon significant growth over the past decade and can be attributed to the implementation of proven best practices. More schools have moved breakfast out of the cafeteria and into the classroom, effectively overcoming timing and stigma barriers common to a traditional school breakfast program. Also critical to this increase is the fact that more schools offered breakfast (and lunch) at no charge to all students, primarily through the Community Eligibility Provision, along with improvements in identifying low-income children who are eligible for free school meals.

This report analyzes three measures of student participation in school breakfast at national and state levels — the number of low-income students participating, the total participation, and the number of low-income children participating in school breakfast when compared to participation in school lunch. Unlike previous school breakfast reports, the

data do not include participation from the months of March, April, and May, as most schools closed for in-person learning and moved to serving meals through the Summer Nutrition Programs<sup>1</sup> during those months.<sup>2</sup> With these variables in mind, below are key findings:

- ▶ more than **12.6 million** children received a free or reduced-price school breakfast on an average school day from September 2019 through February 2020;
- ▶ participation increased by **1.5 percent**, or nearly 186,000 students when compared to the same time period the previous year;
- ▶ almost **37 million** additional free or reduced-price breakfasts were served from September 2019 through February 2020 when compared to September 2018 through February 2019;
- ▶ the School Breakfast Program served **58.4** low-income students for every 100 who participated in the National School Lunch Program, an **increase** from 57.3 to 100 in the previous school year.

While this abbreviated look at the reach of the School Breakfast Program during the 2019–2020 school year suggests that participation would have increased through the full school year if the program had not been stymied by COVID-19, participation in school breakfast continued to lag behind school lunch. The Food Research & Action Center’s ambitious but attainable goal of every state serving school breakfast to 70 low-income students for

every 100 who eat school lunch would have resulted in more than 2.5 million additional children participating in school breakfast.

When the dust settles from COVID-19 and students head back to the classroom, school breakfast will play an even more important role in helping to combat childhood hunger and ensure that students have the nutrition they need to thrive. Much more will need to be done to ensure that the School Breakfast Program can regain lost ground from the last year while also growing to meet the increasing need.

There are proven strategies for expanding the reach of school breakfast, many of which were in motion before the pandemic. More states need to follow the path of the top performers and implement the tried-and-true expansion strategies that worked pre-pandemic, such as offering breakfast (and lunch) at no charge to all students, enacting state breakfast legislation as a vehicle for change, and expanding breakfast after the bell programs. With most schools offering breakfast at no charge to all students this school year, and with schools facing significant budget cuts, federal administrative and legislative actions are needed to support access to school breakfast to ensure that all children have a nutritious breakfast so that they can start each school day ready to learn.

<sup>1</sup> The Summer Nutrition Programs include the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option.

<sup>2</sup> February 2020 was the last full month of participation in the School Breakfast Program before states began transitioning to the Summer Nutrition Programs as a result of school closures in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. More information can be found in the Technical Notes section.



## School Breakfast During COVID-19

To support food access efforts during COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued in March — and has since extended through the 2020–2021 school year — key nationwide waivers that allow for meals to be served safely during the pandemic, including allowing meals to be served through the Summer Nutrition Programs in place of the traditional school meals programs, allowing meals to be taken home and for parents or guardians to pick up meals for their children, and for multiple days' worth of meals to be distributed at one time. In addition, USDA waived the requirement that summer and afterschool meal sites must be located in an area in which at least half of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. This waiver ensures that all families in need are able to access meals, regardless of the community in which they live. USDA also created the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which provides households an EBT card with the value of the free school breakfast and lunch reimbursement rates for the days that schools were closed during COVID-19.



## About the Scorecard

This report measures the reach of the School Breakfast Program in the 2019–2020 school year from September 2019 through February 2020 — nationally and in each state — based on a variety of metrics, and examines the impact of select trends and policies on program participation.

The report measures free and reduced-price school breakfast participation to determine how many low-income students school breakfast is reaching, using

the ratio to free and reduced-price school lunch participation as a benchmark. Because there is broad participation in the National School Lunch Program by low-income students across the states, it is a useful comparison by which to measure how many students could and should be benefiting from school breakfast each day. The report also compares the number of schools offering the School Breakfast Program to the number of schools operating the National School

Lunch Program, as this is an important indicator of low-income children's access to the program.

Finally, the Food Research & Action Center sets an ambitious but achievable goal of reaching 70 low-income students with breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch, and calculates the number of children not being served and the federal dollars lost in each state as a result of not meeting this goal.



## How the School Breakfast Program Works

### Who Operates the School Breakfast Program?

Any public school, nonprofit private school, or residential child care institution can participate in the national School Breakfast Program and receive federal funds for each breakfast served. The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and in each state, typically through the state department of education or agriculture.

### Who can Participate in the School Breakfast Program?

Any student attending a school that offers the program can eat breakfast. What the federal government covers, and what a student pays, depends on family income.

- ▶ Children from families with **incomes at or below 130 percent** of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible for free school meals.
- ▶ Children from families with incomes **between 130 to 185 percent of the FPL** qualify for reduced-price meals and can be charged no more than \$0.30 per breakfast.
- ▶ Children from families with **incomes above 185 percent of the FPL** pay charges (referred to as “paid meals”), which are set by the school.

Other federal and, in some cases, state rules, however, make it possible to offer free meals to all children, or to all children in households with incomes under 185 percent of the FPL, especially in schools with high proportions of low-income children.

### How are Children Certified for Free or Reduced-Price Meals?

Most children are certified for free or reduced-price meals via applications collected by the school district at the beginning of the school year or during the year. However, children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

(FDPIR), as well as foster youth, migrant, homeless, or runaway youth, and Head Start participants are “categorically eligible” (automatically eligible) for free school meals and can be certified without submitting a school meal application.

School districts are required to “directly certify” children in households participating in SNAP for free school meals through data matching of SNAP records with school enrollment lists. School districts have the option of directly certifying other categorically eligible children as well. Some states also use income information from Medicaid to directly certify students as eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

Schools also should use data from the state to certify categorically eligible students. Schools can coordinate with other personnel, such as the school district’s homeless and migrant education liaisons, to obtain documentation to certify children for free school meals. Some categorically eligible children may be missed in this process, requiring the household to submit a school meal application. However, these households are not required to complete the income information section of the application.

### How are School Districts Reimbursed?

The federal reimbursement rate schools receive for each meal served depends on whether a student is receiving free, reduced-price, or paid meals.

For the 2019–2020 school year, schools received reimbursements at the following rates:

- ▶ \$1.84 per free breakfast;
- ▶ \$1.54 per reduced-price breakfast; and
- ▶ \$0.31 per “paid” breakfast.

“Severe-need” schools received an additional \$0.36 for each free or reduced-price breakfast served. Schools are considered severe need if at least 40 percent of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price.

### Offering Breakfast Free to All

Many high-poverty schools are able to offer free meals for all students, with federal reimbursements based on the proportions of low-income children in the school. Providing breakfast at no charge to all students helps remove the stigma often associated with means-tested school breakfast (that breakfast in school is for “the poor kids”), opens the program to children from families who would struggle to pay the reduced-price copayment or the paid breakfast charges, and streamlines the implementation of breakfast in the classroom and other alternative service models. Schools can offer free breakfast to all students through the following options:

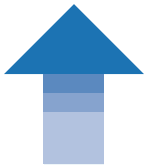
- ▶ **Community Eligibility Provision:** Community eligibility schools are high-poverty schools that offer free breakfast and lunch to all students and do not have to collect, process, or verify school meal applications, or keep track of meals by fee category, resulting in significant administrative savings and increased participation. For more information on community eligibility, see page 8.
- ▶ **Provision 2:** Schools using Provision 2 (referring to a provision of the National School Lunch Act) do not need to collect, process, or verify school meal applications or keep track of meals by fee category for at least three out of every four years. Schools collect school meal applications and count and claim meals by fee category during year one of the multi-year cycle, called the “base year.” Those data then determine the federal reimbursement and are used for future years in the cycle. Provision 2 schools have the option to serve only breakfast or lunch, or both breakfast and lunch, to all students at no charge, and use economies of scale from increased participation and significant administrative savings to offset the cost of offering free meals to all students.
- ▶ **Nonpricing:** No fees are collected from students while schools continue to receive federal reimbursements for the breakfasts served under the three-tier federal fee categories (free, reduced-price, and paid).

## National Findings

School breakfast participation **increased** among low-income children from **September through February of the 2019–2020** school year compared to the same time period in the previous school year.

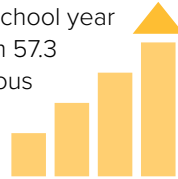


On an average school day, almost **15 million children** participated in the School Breakfast Program; **12.6 million** of them received a free or reduced-price school breakfast.



Breakfast participation among low-income children slightly increased by nearly **186,000** students, or by **1.5 percent** compared to the previous school year.

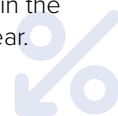
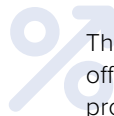
The ratio of low-income children participating in school breakfast to low-income children participating in school lunch **increased** slightly, to **58.4 per 100** in school year 2019–2020, up from 57.3 per 100 in the previous school year.



If all states met the Food Research & Action Center’s goal of reaching 70 low-income children with school breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch, more than **2.5 million additional children** would start the day with a healthy breakfast at school. States and school districts would tap into over **\$495 million in additional federal funding** to support school food services and local economies.



The number of schools offering school meals programs **decreased** slightly, with **89,832 schools offering breakfast** and **95,670 offering school lunch**. The share of schools offering school breakfast, compared to those offering school lunch, **improved** slightly to **93.9 percent**, an increase from 93.6 percent in the previous school year.



## State Findings

For the seventh year in a row, **West Virginia** was the **top-performing state** in terms of school breakfast participation, reaching 84.1 low-income students with school breakfast for every 100 who participated in school lunch.

**Vermont** was the only other state to meet the Food Research & Action Center’s (FRAC) national benchmark of reaching 70 low-income students participating in school breakfast for every 100 in school lunch, with a ratio of 71.3 to 100. **New Mexico** was less than one point away (69.3 to 100).

Seventeen states — **Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia** — and the **District of Columbia** reached at least 60 low-income children with school breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch, while an additional state — **Michigan** — was less than one point shy of meeting that ratio.

Legislation has been instrumental in achieving sustainable success in many of the top-performing states — **Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and West Virginia** — and the **District of Columbia** for requiring high-poverty schools to implement best practices, such as breakfast after the bell, free breakfast to all students, or both, to ensure all children in those schools have access to school breakfast.

**Utah** was the **lowest-performing state**, serving 39.6 students breakfast for every 100 receiving lunch, a 4.5 percent decrease compared to the prior school year. An additional six states — **Hawaii, Iowa, Nebraska, New Hampshire, South Dakota, and Washington** — failed to reach even half of the low-income students who ate school lunch.

In the 2019–2020 school year, 29 states experienced growth in the School Breakfast Program. **Oklahoma had the largest percentage of growth** — a 13.1 percent increase in participation among low-income students

compared to the prior year. **Nevada** followed with a 9.1 percent increase in the number of low-income students participating in school breakfast.

At the same time, breakfast participation growth slowed considerably in many states when compared to the 2018–2019 school year. This was due in part to implementation of breakfast after the bell models stalling in some states. For example, some school districts that were early adopters of breakfast after the bell models halted programs or stopped planned expansion when there was a change in district leadership or a loss of stakeholder support.

States must regain the momentum seen over the past decade and continue to work with school districts to expand the number of eligible schools adopting community eligibility and breakfast after the bell models to meet FRAC’s goal of reaching 70 low-income students with school breakfast for every 100 who participate in school lunch.

### RATIO OF FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL BREAKFAST TO LUNCH PARTICIPATION SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

#### TOP STATES 10

RATIO of Free and Reduced-Price Students in School Breakfast per 100 in School Lunch

West Virginia	Vermont	New Mexico	Kentucky	Arkansas	District of Columbia	Tennessee	Maine	Texas	Missouri
84.1	71.3	69.3	68.4	67.8	67.6	66.2	64.3	64.2	64.0

### RATIO OF FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL BREAKFAST TO LUNCH PARTICIPATION SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

#### BOTTOM STATES 10

RATIO of Free and Reduced-Price Students in School Breakfast per 100 in School Lunch

Florida	Connecticut	Wyoming	Washington	South Dakota	New Hampshire	Nebraska	Iowa	Hawaii	Utah
51.9	51.8	51.0	49.6	45.9	45.7	45.0	43.6	40.3	39.6

### BASED ON THE PERCENTAGE OF GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE BREAKFAST PARTICIPANTS SCHOOL YEAR 2018–2019 TO SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

#### TOP STATES 10

PERCENT Increase of Free and Reduced-Price Students in School Breakfast Program

Oklahoma	Nevada	Massachusetts	District of Columbia	Rhode Island	West Virginia	Iowa	Washington	Michigan	Virginia
13.1%	9.1%	7.3%	6.5%	6.3%	5.7%	5.5%	4.4%	4.2%	4.1%

### The Fiscal Cost of Low Participation

Low participation in the School Breakfast Program is costly on many levels. Students miss out on the educational and health benefits associated with eating school breakfast while states miss out on substantial federal funding. West Virginia and Vermont were the only states that met the Food Research & Action Center’s (FRAC) challenging but attainable goal of reaching 70 low-income students with school breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch, proving there is ample opportunity for growth in many states.

For the 48 states and the District of Columbia that did not meet this goal, FRAC calculated that more than 2.5 million additional children would have started the day ready to learn, as well as the additional funding that the state would have received if it had achieved this goal. In total, almost \$495 million was left on the table in the 2019–2020 school year from September 2019 through February 2020, with six states each passing up more than \$20 million in additional federal funding. The four largest states — California, Florida, New York, and Texas — together missed out on more than \$194 million.

### School Participation

In 39 states and the District of Columbia, 90 percent or more of schools that operated the National School Lunch Program offered school breakfast in the 2019–2020 school



### Breakfast After the Bell

Implementing a breakfast after the bell model that moves breakfast out of the cafeteria and makes it more accessible and a part of the regular school day has proven to be the most successful strategy for increasing school breakfast participation. Breakfast after the bell service models overcome timing, convenience, and stigma barriers that get in the way of children participating in school breakfast, and are even more impactful when they are combined with offering breakfast at no charge to all students. Schools have three options when offering breakfast after the bell:

- ▶ **Breakfast in the Classroom:** Meals are delivered to and eaten in the classroom at the start of the school day;

- ▶ **“Grab and Go”:** Children (particularly older students) can quickly grab the components of their breakfast from carts or kiosks in the hallway or the cafeteria line to eat in their classroom or in common areas; and
- ▶ **Second Chance Breakfast:** Students are offered a second chance to eat breakfast after homeroom or first period. Many middle and high school students are not hungry first thing in the morning. Serving these students breakfast after first period allows them ample time to arrive to class on time while still providing them the opportunity to get a nutritious start to the day.

year. The number of schools offering breakfast compared to lunch is an important indicator of access to the School Breakfast Program, and more work should be done to increase breakfast service, especially in states with low school participation in the School Breakfast Program.

Delaware, Georgia, and Texas operated school breakfast programs in more schools than the number of schools that ran school lunch programs, resulting in a school

breakfast-to-school lunch program ratio of more than 100. In Arkansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, almost all (99 percent or more) schools that offered school lunch also offered school breakfast in the 2019–2020 school year. The lowest performers in school participation in the School Breakfast Program were Nebraska and New Jersey. In Nebraska, 85.1 percent of schools that offered lunch also offered breakfast; 83.7 percent of New Jersey’s schools did the same.

#### TOP STATES 10

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION, SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

RATIO of Schools Offering Breakfast to Schools Offering Lunch

Delaware	Georgia	Texas	South Carolina	Arkansas	District of Columbia	Virginia	Florida	West Virginia	Maryland
100.4	100.3	100.2	99.7	99.1	99.1	99.0	98.9	98.9	98.8

#### BOTTOM STATES 10

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION, SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020

RATIO of Schools Offering Breakfast to Schools Offering Lunch

Ohio	Utah	Massachusetts	Connecticut	South Dakota	Wisconsin	Colorado	Illinois	Nebraska	New Jersey
89.7	89.7	88.2	88.0	86.7	86.0	85.6	85.3	85.1	83.7





## Looking Ahead: Best Practices for Increasing Breakfast Participation

COVID-19 continues to upend the ways that most schools operate. For many districts, students are learning remotely or are only in school buildings for part of the week. Despite these challenges, school nutrition departments are still working hard to provide school meals through a variety of models. The following strategies will ensure that schools have the tools needed to be able to meet the growing need and to increase participation in school breakfast.

### Community Eligibility

Community eligibility has been a game changer for school meals. It allows high-poverty schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, ensuring that all students have the nutrition needed to succeed academically; reduces administrative work for school nutrition staff; and eliminates unpaid school meal fees.



**MORE THAN**  
**14.9 million children**  
attended community eligibility schools  
in school year 2019–2020

In the 2019–2020 school year, the sixth year of its nationwide availability, 30,667 schools and 5,133 school districts participated in community eligibility, offering free breakfast and lunch to more than 14.9 million children.<sup>3</sup> This represents a 6.6 percent increase in the number of schools participating compared to the 2018–2019 school year. Nearly 70 percent of eligible schools nationwide have adopted community eligibility.

Community eligibility also makes it easier for schools to implement breakfast after the bell programs, thus supporting additional increases in participation. States

<sup>3</sup> Food Research & Action Center. (2020). *Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, School Year 2019–2020*. Available at: <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/CEP-Report-2020.pdf>. Accessed on December 9, 2020.



### How Community Eligibility Works

Authorized by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, and phased in select states before being rolled out nationwide, the Community Eligibility Provision allows high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch free of charge to all students, and to realize significant administrative savings by eliminating school meal applications. Any district, group of schools in a district, or school with 40 percent or more “identified students” — children who are eligible for free school meals who already are identified by means other than an individual household application — can choose to participate.

“Identified students” include those who are in two categories:

- ▶ children who are **directly certified for free school meals through data matching** because their households receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits, or, in some states, Medicaid benefits;
- ▶ children who are **certified for free meals without an application** because they are homeless, migrant, enrolled in Head Start, or in foster care.

where community eligibility was implemented broadly have experienced high participation in the School Breakfast Program. In the 2019–2020 school year, the four states that ranked the highest for school breakfast participation had 83 percent or more of their eligible schools participating in community eligibility.

Last spring, the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a nationwide waiver to give states and schools more time to plan for and implement community eligibility in the 2020–2021 school year. With the challenges that schools have faced this school

Community eligibility schools are reimbursed for meals served, based on a formula. Because of evidence that the ratio of all eligible children-to-children in these identified categories would be 1.6-to-1, Congress built that into the formula. Reimbursements to the school are calculated by multiplying the percentage of identified students by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals that will be reimbursed at the federal free rate. For example, a school with 50 percent identified students would be reimbursed at the free rate for 80 percent of the meals eaten (50 multiplied by 1.6 = 80), and at the paid rate for 20 percent.

School districts also may choose to participate districtwide or group schools however they choose if the district or group has an overall identified student percentage of 40 percent or higher.



**Find out which schools in your state or community are participating or eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision with the Food Research & Action Center’s database.**

year, USDA will likely need to extend the waiver to support community eligibility adoption in the 2021–2022 school year.

With the growing number of families participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program due to the economic crisis, more schools will be able to adopt community eligibility in the 2021–2022 school year. To bring these schools into community eligibility, states and school districts must work together to strengthen direct certification systems so that a school’s identified student percentage accurately

**LOOKING AHEAD** CONTINUED

reflects the need within the school. Outreach and technical assistance by USDA, state agencies, and anti-hunger advocates also will be critical as schools consider the social, health, and financial benefits of community eligibility, with many considering implementation for the first time. Moving forward, schools should reevaluate if community eligibility is a more financially viable option than it was before the COVID-19 crisis.

Best practices have been established to support broad implementation of community eligibility in high-poverty school districts. These include strategies to implement community eligibility in schools with lower identified student percentages, to increase the identified student percentage by expanding direct certification, and to better group schools to maximize funding.

**State School Breakfast Legislation**

States with legislation focused on building strong school breakfast programs continued to take the top-performing spots in the 2019–2020 school year. Four of the top 10 states — Maine, New Mexico, Texas, and West Virginia — and the District of Columbia have passed and implemented legislation that requires all or some schools to operate breakfast after the bell models or offer breakfast at no charge to all students in high-poverty schools. In all of these states, school breakfast participation increased after the passage of state legislation and the subsequent implementation.

In the 2018–2019 school year, schools in New York with 70 percent or more students who were certified for free or reduced-price meals were required to implement breakfast after the bell models. Participation has continued to surge since then, with over 25,000 additional students eating breakfast in the 2019–2020 school year compared to the prior year. Similar legislation in Washington was implemented in the 2019–2020 school year. Over 7,000 more students received a school breakfast that year when compared to the 2018–2019 school year.



School breakfast legislation provides an important opportunity to increase and expand school breakfast participation. Advocates and allies can enact policies that address the two main barriers to school breakfast participation — timing and stigma. School breakfast legislation that requires schools to offer breakfast at no charge to all students after the bell eliminates both of these barriers. Legislation that encourages, requires, or provides financial support to school districts to offer universal meals through provisions, such as community eligibility, will have positive impacts on school breakfast participation, improve the school environment, and eliminate school meal debt.



For more information on state legislation and policy that supports the expansion of the School Breakfast

Program, refer to the [Food Research & Action Center’s School Meals Legislation and Funding Chart](#).

## Building and Maintaining Robust Breakfast After the Bell Programs

Making breakfast a part of the school day by moving breakfast service out of the cafeteria dramatically increases participation by making it convenient and accessible to all. The implementation of breakfast after the bell programs has been one of the main engines driving the growth in the School Breakfast Program over the past decade. As states and school districts operate under the unique circumstances created by the pandemic, breakfast in the classroom offers an important strategy to support social distancing and protects students and staff while increasing participation.

A strong and sustainable breakfast after the bell program includes a planning process that engages all district stakeholders from the beginning and requires a thorough assessment. [The Food Research & Action Center](#) and the [Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom](#) have developed a number of resources to help breakfast champions navigate the stakeholder engagement and implementation process that is required to build strong programs, including assessment tools, financial calculators, and toolkits created for specific stakeholders, e.g., educators and administrators.

## Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Congress has an important opportunity in 2021 to pass a strong child nutrition reauthorization that builds upon the progress made to date while also responding to the new challenges introduced by COVID-19.

Allowing schools to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge will be critical as the country recovers from the pandemic and should be a key consideration for policymakers as a way to combat hunger and provide support to families moving forward. Providing meals at no charge has expanded gradually over the past few years through the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision. More recently,

this approach has been critical to increasing program access during the pandemic, as schools have been able to offer free meals to all children through the Summer Nutrition Programs.

**COVID-19 has underscored the need to offer meals at no charge so that all students can experience the health and educational benefits linked to school meals, and to allow schools to focus on providing the most nutritious and appealing meals possible, instead of spending stretched resources processing school meal applications.**

Congress should act boldly in the upcoming child nutrition reauthorization and allow all schools to offer school meals to all at no charge. The following recommendations also would help move the country in that direction, by increasing the number of schools that are providing free meals to all students and better linking families in need to free school meals:

- ▶ **INCREASE** the number of low-income children who are directly certified to receive free school meals without an application;
- ▶ **ELIMINATE** the reduced-price fee category so that children up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level are able to receive free school meals;
- ▶ **INVEST** in the Community Eligibility Provision to increase the number of high-poverty schools that can participate;
- ▶ **MOVE** toward free school meals for all by creating statewide community eligibility pilots;
- ▶ **DIRECT** the U.S. Department of Agriculture to set federal policy for school meals debt that protects students; and
- ▶ **ALLOW** school districts to retroactively claim and receive reimbursements for school meals served to low-income students who are certified for free or reduced-price school meals later in the school year, starting with the first day of the school year.



For more information on the Food Research & Action Center's (FRAC) priorities, visit [FRAC's Child Nutrition Reauthorization website](#).

## Conclusion

Before schools shuttered in March due to the pandemic, school breakfast participation was moving in the right direction, increasing by nearly 186,000 students, or by 1.5 percent, from the previous school year. The best practices that have been driving increased participation — offering breakfast at no charge to all students and serving meals through breakfast after the bell service models — continue to help schools overcome the common barriers, such as timing, convenience, and stigma, which are often associated with the program and have led to decreased participation. These two approaches have been important during the pandemic as schools have been able to offer free breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students through the Summer Nutrition Programs, and breakfast in the classroom can help support social distancing as schools have reopened.

The School Breakfast Program is essential to ending childhood hunger and supporting children's health, learning, and development. It should be expanded and improved to better meet children's nutritional needs as families continue to feel the impact of COVID-19. Moving forward, collaboration among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state child nutrition agencies, policymakers, educators, and anti-hunger advocates will be necessary to ensure all students start the day with a healthy school breakfast this school year and beyond.

## Technical Notes

The data in this report are collected from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and an annual survey of state child nutrition officials conducted by the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). This report does not include data for students or schools that participate in school meals programs in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Department of Defense schools.

Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not add up to 100 percent.

Student participation data for the 2019–2020 school year and the 2018–2019 school year are based on daily averages of the number of breakfasts and lunches served on school days during the six months from September through February, as provided by USDA. States report to USDA the number of meals they serve each month. These numbers may undergo later revisions by states as accounting procedures find errors, or other estimates become confirmed.

For consistency, all USDA data used in this report are from the states' 90-day revisions of the monthly reports. The 90-day revisions are the final required reports from the states, but states have the option to change numbers at any time after that point.

Based on information from USDA, FRAC applies a formula (divide average daily participation by an attendance factor) to adjust numbers upwards to account for children who were absent from school on a particular day. FRAC uses an attendance factor of 0.927 to adjust the average daily participation numbers in breakfast and lunch for the 2019–2020 school year.

The number of participating schools is reported by states to USDA in October of the relevant school year. The number includes not only public schools, but also private schools, residential child care institutions, and other institutions that operate school meals programs. FRAC's *School Breakfast Scorecard* uses the October number, which is verified by FRAC with state officials, and FRAC provides an opportunity for state officials to update or correct the school numbers.

For each state, FRAC calculates the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced-price breakfasts for every 100 children who were receiving free or reduced-price lunches during the same school year. Based on the top states' performance, FRAC has set an attainable benchmark of every state reaching a ratio of 70 children receiving free or reduced-price school breakfast for every 100 receiving free or reduced-price school lunch. FRAC multiplies this unserved population by the breakfast reimbursement rate (applying the free and reduced-price reimbursement rates to the percentage of children served in each state in those categories) by the national average of school days of breakfast during the 2019–2020 school year.

FRAC assumes each state's mix of free and reduced-price students would apply to any new participants, and conservatively assumes that no additional students' meals are reimbursed at the somewhat higher rate that severe-need schools receive for breakfast. Severe-need schools are those where more than 40 percent of lunches served in the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price.



**Table 1:** Low-Income Student Participation in School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast (SBP), School Years 2018–2019 and 2019–2020<sup>1</sup>

State	SCHOOL YEAR 2018–2019				SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020				Change in Ratio of SBP to NSLP Participation	Percent Change in Number of F&RP Students in SBP
	Free & Reduced-Price (F&RP) SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank Among States	Free & Reduced-Price (F&RP) SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank Among States		
Alabama	233,742	389,039	60.1	19	228,209	372,855	61.2	18	1.1	-2.4%
Alaska	22,177	40,002	55.4	29	20,697	37,337	55.4	30	0.0	-6.7%
Arizona	265,789	477,967	55.6	28	259,719	468,269	55.5	29	-0.1	-2.3%
Arkansas	161,568	243,752	66.3	6	165,720	244,446	67.8	5	1.5	2.6%
California	1,480,604	2,607,446	56.8	27	1,477,116	2,569,010	57.5	26	0.7	-0.2%
Colorado	131,185	228,883	57.3	25	129,644	228,354	56.8	28	-0.5	-1.2%
Connecticut	99,947	196,225	50.9	42	103,313	199,512	51.8	43	0.8	3.4%
Delaware	40,612	65,397	62.1	12	41,287	65,261	63.3	11	1.2	1.7%
District of Columbia	29,703	42,862	69.3	2	31,645	46,834	67.6	6	-1.7	6.5%
Florida	767,248	1,490,065	51.5	38	759,548	1,464,647	51.9	42	0.4	-1.0%
Georgia	552,040	904,122	61.1	15	546,699	882,431	62.0	16	0.9	-1.0%
Hawaii	25,685	65,666	39.1	51	25,559	63,469	40.3	50	1.2	-0.5%
Idaho	50,752	93,742	54.1	32	46,815	87,704	53.4	37	-0.8	-7.8%
Illinois	412,465	805,222	51.2	40	407,308	774,853	52.6	39	1.3	-1.3%
Indiana	231,076	454,638	50.8	43	239,435	461,273	51.9	41	1.1	3.6%
Iowa	82,074	193,472	42.4	49	86,586	198,689	43.6	49	1.2	5.5%
Kansas	99,321	192,242	51.7	37	102,426	189,132	54.2	35	2.5	3.1%
Kentucky	293,351	436,747	67.2	5	304,068	444,797	68.4	4	1.2	3.7%
Louisiana	278,091	465,583	59.7	20	283,717	467,628	60.7	21	0.9	2.0%
Maine	36,727	57,914	63.4	9	35,579	55,339	64.3	8	0.9	-3.1%
Maryland	186,626	304,100	61.4	13	188,134	302,942	62.1	15	0.7	0.8%
Massachusetts	184,011	341,188	53.9	33	197,475	345,340	57.2	27	3.3	7.3%
Michigan	347,994	594,239	58.6	22	362,472	607,294	59.7	22	1.1	4.2%
Minnesota	154,757	283,904	54.5	31	150,941	274,182	55.1	32	0.5	-2.5%
Mississippi	184,924	303,796	60.9	17	181,678	299,081	60.7	20	-0.1	-1.8%
Missouri	226,894	363,523	62.4	10	229,930	359,290	64.0	10	1.6	1.3%
Montana	29,791	48,930	60.9	16	29,650	47,248	62.8	14	1.9	-0.5%
Nebraska	58,583	131,156	44.7	47	59,379	132,045	45.0	48	0.3	1.4%
Nevada	111,845	185,088	60.4	18	121,994	198,458	61.5	17	1.0	9.1%
New Hampshire	14,838	34,000	43.6	48	14,817	32,408	45.7	47	2.1	-0.1%
New Jersey	263,878	446,243	59.1	21	242,959	420,059	57.8	25	-1.3	-7.9%
New Mexico	122,993	177,660	69.2	3	120,547	174,050	69.3	3	0.0	-2.0%
New York	720,114	1,391,496	51.8	36	745,758	1,403,859	53.1	38	1.4	3.6%
North Carolina	384,215	670,103	57.3	24	399,030	652,832	61.1	19	3.8	3.9%
North Dakota	17,311	33,941	51.0	41	17,972	34,486	52.1	40	1.1	3.8%
Ohio	368,489	644,714	57.2	26	367,976	628,043	58.6	24	1.4	-0.1%
Oklahoma	164,007	281,541	58.3	23	185,477	316,100	58.7	23	0.4	13.1%
Oregon	111,482	202,736	55.0	30	106,272	192,568	55.2	31	0.2	-4.7%
Pennsylvania	361,907	693,658	52.2	35	375,668	693,128	54.2	34	2.0	3.8%
Rhode Island	26,862	51,023	52.6	34	28,561	52,679	54.2	33	1.6	6.3%
South Carolina	226,863	365,061	62.1	11	228,168	361,747	63.1	12	0.9	0.6%
South Dakota	22,655	49,332	45.9	46	22,320	48,653	45.9	46	0.0	-1.5%
Tennessee	319,310	493,360	64.7	7	323,595	488,959	66.2	7	1.5	1.3%
Texas	1,725,413	2,717,859	63.5	8	1,791,528	2,789,784	64.2	9	0.7	3.8%
Utah	63,922	160,278	39.9	50	61,024	154,275	39.6	51	-0.3	-4.5%
Vermont	17,571	25,526	68.8	4	17,185	24,103	71.3	2	2.5	-2.2%
Virginia	279,909	456,681	61.3	14	291,262	462,150	63.0	13	1.7	4.1%
Washington	164,841	352,298	46.8	45	172,128	346,888	49.6	45	2.8	4.4%
West Virginia	119,997	144,777	82.9	1	126,825	150,731	84.1	1	1.3	5.7%
Wisconsin	151,963	296,014	51.3	39	157,810	293,496	53.8	36	2.4	3.8%
Wyoming	11,887	24,269	49.0	44	12,168	23,873	51.0	44	2.0	2.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,440,007</b>	<b>21,719,477</b>	<b>57.3</b>		<b>12,625,791</b>	<b>21,632,594</b>	<b>58.4</b>		<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Participation data for the 2018–2019 school year and the 2019–2020 school year include the months of September through February.

**Table 2: School Participation in School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast (SBP), School Years 2018–2019 and 2019–2020**

State	SCHOOL YEAR 2018–2019				SCHOOL YEAR 2019–2020				Percent Change in Number of SBP Schools
	SBP Schools	NSLP Schools	SBP Schools as % of NSLP Schools	Rank Among States	SBP Schools	NSLP Schools	SBP Schools as % of NSLP Schools	Rank Among States	
Alabama	1,429	1,467	97.4%	18	1,436	1,472	97.6%	18	0.5%
Alaska	400	431	92.8%	35	385	416	92.5%	36	-3.8%
Arizona	1,728	1,809	95.5%	23	1,721	1,790	96.1%	22	-0.4%
Arkansas	1,069	1,077	99.3%	5	1,065	1,075	99.1%	6	-0.4%
California	9,236	10,071	91.7%	37	8,939	9,838	90.9%	40	-3.2%
Colorado	1,517	1,765	85.9%	46	1,525	1,782	85.6%	48	0.5%
Connecticut	882	1,021	86.4%	45	883	1,003	88.0%	45	0.1%
Delaware	247	245	100.8%	1	227	226	100.4%	1	-8.1%
District of Columbia	232	234	99.1%	6	231	233	99.1%	5	-0.4%
Florida	3,910	3,959	98.8%	9	3,911	3,954	98.9%	8	0.0%
Georgia	2,326	2,370	98.1%	13	2,307	2,300	100.3%	2	-0.8%
Hawaii	283	291	97.3%	19	283	291	97.3%	19	0.0%
Idaho	669	698	95.8%	22	643	670	96.0%	24	-3.9%
Illinois	3,406	4,025	84.6%	47	3,417	4,008	85.3%	49	0.3%
Indiana	1,928	2,105	91.6%	38	1,949	2,116	92.1%	38	1.1%
Iowa	1,275	1,365	93.4%	32	1,265	1,347	93.9%	31	-0.8%
Kansas	1,423	1,519	93.7%	31	1,423	1,494	95.2%	27	0.0%
Kentucky	1,271	1,302	97.6%	17	1,283	1,315	97.6%	17	0.9%
Louisiana	1,440	1,511	95.3%	24	1,433	1,493	96.0%	23	-0.5%
Maine	590	602	98.0%	14	587	600	97.8%	15	-0.5%
Maryland	1,466	1,488	98.5%	11	1,464	1,482	98.8%	10	-0.1%
Massachusetts	1,872	2,167	86.4%	44	1,892	2,144	88.2%	44	1.1%
Michigan	3,038	3,287	92.4%	36	3,071	3,309	92.8%	35	1.1%
Minnesota	1,777	1,997	89.0%	43	1,790	1,990	89.9%	41	0.7%
Mississippi	844	890	94.8%	25	843	883	95.5%	25	-0.1%
Missouri	2,298	2,443	94.1%	28	2,315	2,449	94.5%	29	0.7%
Montana	720	788	91.4%	39	741	801	92.5%	37	2.9%
Nebraska	765	909	84.2%	49	788	926	85.1%	50	3.0%
Nevada	590	628	93.9%	29	600	645	93.0%	34	1.7%
New Hampshire	406	436	93.1%	33	412	439	93.8%	32	1.5%
New Jersey	2,175	2,626	82.8%	51	2,142	2,558	83.7%	51	-1.5%
New Mexico	863	895	96.4%	21	863	893	96.6%	20	0.0%
New York	5,612	5,927	94.7%	26	5,383	5,674	94.9%	28	-4.1%
North Carolina	2,521	2,557	98.6%	10	2,528	2,561	98.7%	11	0.3%
North Dakota	370	408	90.7%	40	377	411	91.7%	39	1.9%
Ohio	3,241	3,637	89.1%	42	3,131	3,490	89.7%	42	-3.4%
Oklahoma	1,806	1,826	98.9%	7	1,851	1,890	97.9%	14	2.5%
Oregon	1,276	1,320	96.7%	20	1,264	1,308	96.6%	21	-0.9%
Pennsylvania	3,139	3,380	92.9%	34	3,130	3,347	93.5%	33	-0.3%
Rhode Island	352	360	97.8%	16	341	347	98.3%	13	-3.1%
South Carolina	1,191	1,194	99.7%	4	1,187	1,191	99.7%	4	-0.3%
South Dakota	582	690	84.3%	48	601	693	86.7%	46	3.3%
Tennessee	1,775	1,805	98.3%	12	1,778	1,803	98.6%	12	0.2%
Texas	8,503	8,457	100.5%	2	8,405	8,392	100.2%	3	-1.2%
Utah	874	972	89.9%	41	871	971	89.7%	43	-0.3%
Vermont	312	319	97.8%	15	312	319	97.8%	16	0.0%
Virginia	1,955	1,954	100.1%	3	1,952	1,971	99.0%	7	-0.2%
Washington	1,991	2,121	93.9%	30	1,823	1,938	94.1%	30	-8.4%
West Virginia	703	711	98.9%	8	700	708	98.9%	9	-0.4%
Wisconsin	2,014	2,410	83.6%	50	2,069	2,405	86.0%	47	2.7%
Wyoming	295	312	94.6%	27	295	309	95.5%	26	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90,587</b>	<b>96,781</b>	<b>93.6%</b>		<b>89,832</b>	<b>95,670</b>	<b>93.9%</b>		<b>-0.8%</b>

**Table 3: Average Daily Student Participation In School Breakfast Program (SBP), School Year 2019–2020<sup>1</sup>**

State	Free (F) SBP Students		Reduced-Price (RP) SBP Students		Total F&RP SBP Students		Paid SBP Students		Total SBP Students
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Alabama	214,229	78.2%	13,980	5.1%	228,209	83.3%	45,636	16.7%	273,845
Alaska	19,593	77.1%	1,104	4.3%	20,697	81.4%	4,718	18.6%	25,415
Arizona	239,008	77.2%	20,711	6.7%	259,719	83.9%	49,949	16.1%	309,668
Arkansas	148,592	71.9%	17,128	8.3%	165,720	80.2%	40,831	19.8%	206,551
California	1,368,697	80.9%	108,420	6.4%	1,477,116	87.4%	213,795	12.6%	1,690,911
Colorado	109,133	63.6%	20,511	12.0%	129,644	75.6%	41,937	24.4%	171,582
Connecticut	100,250	85.4%	3,063	2.6%	103,313	88.0%	14,029	12.0%	117,342
Delaware	39,969	72.9%	1,318	2.4%	41,287	75.3%	13,571	24.7%	54,858
District of Columbia	31,263	81.9%	382	1.0%	31,645	82.9%	6,528	17.1%	38,172
Florida	717,733	82.2%	41,815	4.8%	759,548	87.0%	113,973	13.0%	873,521
Georgia	509,448	77.3%	37,250	5.6%	546,699	82.9%	112,711	17.1%	659,410
Hawaii	22,896	69.8%	2,663	8.1%	25,559	78.0%	7,221	22.0%	32,780
Idaho	39,874	59.2%	6,941	10.3%	46,815	69.5%	20,561	30.5%	67,376
Illinois	399,372	90.1%	7,936	1.8%	407,308	91.9%	36,085	8.1%	443,393
Indiana	221,006	75.6%	18,430	6.3%	239,435	81.9%	52,937	18.1%	292,373
Iowa	80,570	74.3%	6,016	5.6%	86,586	79.9%	21,797	20.1%	108,383
Kansas	88,345	67.7%	14,080	10.8%	102,426	78.5%	28,072	21.5%	130,498
Kentucky	301,257	89.0%	2,811	0.8%	304,068	89.8%	34,544	10.2%	338,612
Louisiana	280,397	91.3%	3,320	1.1%	283,717	92.4%	23,245	7.6%	306,963
Maine	31,180	59.2%	4,399	8.4%	35,579	67.6%	17,071	32.4%	52,650
Maryland	165,106	62.1%	23,028	8.7%	188,134	70.7%	77,791	29.3%	265,925
Massachusetts	192,048	85.4%	5,427	2.4%	197,475	87.8%	27,508	12.2%	224,983
Michigan	348,350	83.7%	14,122	3.4%	362,472	87.1%	53,792	12.9%	416,264
Minnesota	122,302	50.5%	28,638	11.8%	150,941	62.3%	91,281	37.7%	242,222
Mississippi	172,507	86.1%	9,171	4.6%	181,678	90.7%	18,697	9.3%	200,375
Missouri	207,361	68.8%	22,569	7.5%	229,930	76.3%	71,583	23.7%	301,513
Montana	27,129	67.8%	2,521	6.3%	29,650	74.1%	10,341	25.9%	39,991
Nebraska	50,953	61.3%	8,426	10.1%	59,379	71.4%	23,759	28.6%	83,138
Nevada	118,743	87.1%	3,250	2.4%	121,994	89.5%	14,303	10.5%	136,297
New Hampshire	12,550	56.2%	2,266	10.1%	14,817	66.3%	7,522	33.7%	22,339
New Jersey	225,599	73.6%	17,361	5.7%	242,959	79.2%	63,622	20.8%	306,581
New Mexico	117,159	81.9%	3,388	2.4%	120,547	84.3%	22,507	15.7%	143,055
New York	733,308	90.6%	12,450	1.5%	745,758	92.2%	63,397	7.8%	809,155
North Carolina	376,487	79.1%	22,542	4.7%	399,030	83.9%	76,769	16.1%	475,799
North Dakota	15,382	50.5%	2,590	8.5%	17,972	59.0%	12,474	41.0%	30,446
Ohio	347,362	76.0%	20,614	4.5%	367,976	80.5%	89,305	19.5%	457,281
Oklahoma	169,331	73.2%	16,146	7.0%	185,477	80.2%	45,769	19.8%	231,246
Oregon	96,746	68.0%	9,526	6.7%	106,272	74.7%	35,973	25.3%	142,244
Pennsylvania	364,738	83.6%	10,930	2.5%	375,668	86.1%	60,436	13.9%	436,104
Rhode Island	26,940	78.1%	1,621	4.7%	28,561	82.8%	5,930	17.2%	34,491
South Carolina	218,194	79.5%	9,974	3.6%	228,168	83.1%	46,286	16.9%	274,455
South Dakota	20,034	67.1%	2,286	7.7%	22,320	74.7%	7,547	25.3%	29,867
Tennessee	305,870	77.1%	17,725	4.5%	323,595	81.5%	73,298	18.5%	396,893
Texas	1,718,551	85.2%	72,977	3.6%	1,791,528	88.8%	225,902	11.2%	2,017,430
Utah	52,650	62.4%	8,374	9.9%	61,024	72.3%	23,328	27.7%	84,352
Vermont	14,809	58.8%	2,375	9.4%	17,185	68.3%	7,991	31.7%	25,176
Virginia	268,367	72.0%	22,894	6.1%	291,262	78.1%	81,474	21.9%	372,736
Washington	151,485	71.3%	20,643	9.7%	172,128	81.0%	40,396	19.0%	212,524
West Virginia	124,991	80.9%	1,834	1.2%	126,825	82.1%	27,592	17.9%	154,417
Wisconsin	146,863	71.9%	10,947	5.4%	157,810	77.3%	46,465	22.7%	204,275
Wyoming	9,797	52.7%	2,371	12.8%	12,168	65.5%	6,414	34.5%	18,582
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,884,525</b>	<b>79.3%</b>	<b>741,266</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>12,625,791</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>2,358,666</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>14,984,457</b>

<sup>1</sup> Participation data for the 2019–2020 school year include the months of September through February.

**Table 4:** Additional Participation and Funding If 70 Low-Income Students Were Served School Breakfast (SBP) Per 100 Served School Lunch (NSLP), School Year 2019–2020<sup>1</sup>

State	Actual Total Free & Reduced-Price (F&RP) SBP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Total F&RP Students if 70 SBP per 100 NSLP	Additional F&RP Students if 70 SBP per 100 NSLP	Additional Annual Funding if 70 SBP per 100 NSLP F&RP Students
Alabama	228,209	61.2	260,999	32,790	\$6,450,853
Alaska	20,697	55.4	26,136	5,439	\$1,071,381
Arizona	259,719	55.5	327,789	68,070	\$13,350,985
Arkansas	165,720	67.8	171,112	5,392	\$1,053,471
California	1,477,116	57.5	1,798,307	321,191	\$63,063,252
Colorado	129,644	56.8	159,848	30,203	\$5,847,181
Connecticut	103,313	51.8	139,659	36,346	\$7,187,710
Delaware	41,287	63.3	45,682	4,395	\$868,873
District of Columbia	31,645	67.6	32,784	1,139	\$225,888
Florida	759,548	51.9	1,025,253	265,705	\$52,326,980
Georgia	546,699	62.0	617,702	71,003	\$13,952,962
Hawaii	25,559	40.3	44,429	18,870	\$3,686,104
Idaho	46,815	53.4	61,393	14,577	\$2,826,807
Illinois	407,308	52.6	542,397	135,089	\$26,759,609
Indiana	239,435	51.9	322,891	83,456	\$16,376,246
Iowa	86,586	43.6	139,082	52,496	\$10,313,875
Kansas	102,426	54.2	132,392	29,967	\$5,821,494
Kentucky	304,068	68.4	311,358	7,291	\$1,446,596
Louisiana	283,717	60.7	327,339	43,622	\$8,652,015
Maine	35,579	64.3	38,737	3,159	\$615,062
Maryland	188,134	62.1	212,059	23,926	\$4,659,622
Massachusetts	197,475	57.2	241,738	44,263	\$8,756,571
Michigan	362,472	59.7	425,106	62,634	\$12,367,492
Minnesota	150,941	55.1	191,927	40,987	\$7,892,936
Mississippi	181,678	60.7	209,357	27,678	\$5,454,989
Missouri	229,930	64.0	251,503	21,573	\$4,218,435
Montana	29,650	62.8	33,074	3,424	\$670,890
Nebraska	59,379	45.0	92,431	33,052	\$6,416,151
Nevada	121,994	61.5	138,921	16,927	\$3,349,092
New Hampshire	14,817	45.7	22,686	7,869	\$1,524,771
New Jersey	242,959	57.8	294,041	51,082	\$10,032,737
New Mexico	120,547	69.3	121,835	1,288	\$254,722
New York	745,758	53.1	982,701	236,944	\$46,957,279
North Carolina	399,030	61.1	456,982	57,953	\$11,410,280
North Dakota	17,972	52.1	24,140	6,168	\$1,196,979
Ohio	367,976	58.6	439,630	71,655	\$14,109,161
Oklahoma	185,477	58.7	221,270	35,793	\$7,011,808
Oregon	106,272	55.2	134,798	28,526	\$5,585,867
Pennsylvania	375,668	54.2	485,190	109,522	\$21,660,958
Rhode Island	28,561	54.2	36,875	8,314	\$1,636,883
South Carolina	228,168	63.1	253,223	25,055	\$4,943,445
South Dakota	22,320	45.9	34,057	11,737	\$2,293,398
Tennessee	323,595	66.2	342,271	18,676	\$3,678,217
Texas	1,791,528	64.2	1,952,849	161,321	\$31,844,793
Utah	61,024	39.6	107,992	46,969	\$9,124,759
Vermont	17,185	71.3	Met Goal	Met Goal	Met Goal
Virginia	291,262	63.0	323,505	32,243	\$6,325,258
Washington	172,128	49.6	242,822	70,693	\$13,773,458
West Virginia	126,825	84.1	Met Goal	Met Goal	Met Goal
Wisconsin	157,810	53.8	205,447	47,637	\$9,359,307
Wyoming	12,168	51.0	16,711	4,543	\$874,193
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,625,791</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>15,142,816</b>	<b>2,517,025</b>	<b>\$495,395,264</b>

<sup>1</sup> Participation data for the 2019–2020 school year include the months of September through February.





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