



The Reach of School Breakfast and Lunch
During the 2022–2023 School Year

MARCH 2024 | WWW.FRAC.ORG

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Acknowledgments

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) gratefully acknowledges major dedicated support of its work to increase participation and improve the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program from the following:

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

This report was written by FRAC's Clarissa Hayes and Crystal FitzSimons. The findings and conclusions presented in this report are those of FRAC alone.

For research citation: FitzSimons, C., Hayes, C. (2024). *The Reach of School Breakfast and Lunch During the 2022–2023 School Year*. <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Reach-Report-2024.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.



Breakfast and Lunch Participation 2022–2023

JUST OVER
14.3 million

children participated in school breakfast in the 2022–2023 school year on an average school day, with **11.3 million** receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast.

JUST OVER
28.1 million

children participated in school lunch in the 2022–2023 school year on an average school day, with **19.7 million** receiving a free or reduced-price lunch.

School breakfast **DECREASED** by **1.2 million children**, and school lunch **DECREASED** by **1.8 million children**, with the end of the pandemic-era waivers that allowed schools to offer meals to all students at no charge.

42 states and the District of Columbia experienced a **DECREASE** in breakfast participation, and 42 states and the District of Columbia experienced a **DECREASE** in lunch participation compared to the 2021–2022 school year.

The states that had increases in school meal participation in the 2022–2023 school year **continued to offer meals to all students at no charge** in all or a significant number of their schools.

Executive Summary

For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, school breakfast and lunch returned to normal operations for the 2022–2023 school year. While the healthy breakfasts and lunches served at school remained an important support for millions of families, the expiration of key [nationwide waivers](#) also meant that many of the same challenges that children, families, and school nutrition departments faced prior to the pandemic began to reemerge.

The nationwide waivers that allowed schools to offer meals to all students at no charge were a game changer during the pandemic, ensuring that all students had access to the nutrition they needed to learn and thrive at school. In addition to increasing access, offering meals at no charge also reduced the administrative burden on school nutrition departments; eliminated school meal debt; reduced stigma; and streamlined the implementation of breakfast in the classroom and other alternative service models.

Many districts had to return to the tiered eligibility system in the 2022–2023 school year that required them to collect, process, and verify school meal applications, and millions of children lost access to the free school meals that were available beginning in the spring of 2020 through the 2021–2022 school year. Although it will take years to understand the full impact of the pandemic on children and their

families, the end of the pandemic-era waivers that allowed schools to offer meals to all children at no charge had an immediate impact on school meal participation during the 2022–2023 school year.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Just over **14.3 million children** participated in school breakfast in the 2022–2023 school year on an average school day, with **11.3 million** receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast.
- ▶ Total school breakfast participation decreased by nearly **1.2 million children (7.7 percent)** compared to the 2021–2022 school year.
- ▶ Just over **28.1 million children** participated in school lunch in the 2022–2023 school year on an average school day, with **19.7 million** receiving a free or reduced-price lunch.
- ▶ Total school lunch participation decreased by nearly **1.8 million children (6 percent)** compared to the 2021–2022 school year.
- ▶ The gap between school breakfast and lunch participation grew in the 2022–2023 school year compared to the previous year. Only **50.9 children** received a school breakfast for every 100 children who received a school lunch, a decrease from **51.9** per 100 in the 2021–2022 school year.
- ▶ During the 2022–2023 school year, **42** states and the District of Columbia experienced a decrease in breakfast participation, and **42** states and the District of Columbia experienced a decrease in lunch participation compared to the 2021–2022 school year, with the end of the pandemic-era waivers that allowed schools to offer meals to all students at no charge.
- ▶ The states that had increases in school meal participation in the 2022–2023 school year continued to offer meals to all students at no charge in all or a significant number of their schools.
 - » Four states — California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont¹ — implemented a statewide Healthy School Meals for All policy and increased school breakfast and lunch participation.
 - » Pennsylvania implemented a statewide Healthy School Breakfast for All policy and increased breakfast participation.
 - » The other states that had increases in school breakfast, school lunch, or both, benefited from a high rate of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) participation — Kentucky and Louisiana — or from a significant increase in the number of schools participating in CEP — Connecticut, North Carolina, and Texas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED

The data is clear: Healthy School Meals for All policies offer an important strategy to ensure access to school meals. In addition to continued progress toward Healthy School Meals for All through state and federal legislation, the Community Eligibility Provision offers high-need schools a path to Healthy School Meals for All, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently made a [policy change](#) that makes 3,000 additional schools eligible to implement CEP. Maximizing participation in CEP remains an important tool for ensuring access to school meals for all students and mitigating the aftereffects of the pandemic.

School breakfast and lunch can — and should — be reaching more students. The advancement of Healthy School Meals for All through federal and state legislation and community eligibility, combined with proven best practices for increasing participation — such as implementing innovative breakfast models, ensuring enough time to eat, and serving high-quality, appealing meals — is the path forward to ensure all children have access to the nutritious school meals they need to learn and thrive.

 **About This Report**

This report measures the reach of breakfast and lunch in the 2022–2023 school year from September through May — nationally and in each state — based on a variety of metrics and examines the impact of select trends and policies on program participation.

This report compares total breakfast and lunch participation in 2022–2023 to 2021–2022. Because of the nationwide pandemic waivers that allowed schools to offer meals at no charge to all students, free and reduced-price data from the spring of the 2019–2020 school year through the 2021–2022



school years do not provide a useful comparison for the 2022–2023 school year, as nearly all meals were claimed under the free category.

The broad participation in the National School Lunch Program by students across the states offers 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 access to the program for children from households with low incomes in the states.



How School Nutrition Programs Worked During the 2022–2023 School Year²

How Can Breakfasts and Lunches Be Served?

Any public school, nonprofit private school, or [residential child care](#) institution can participate in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and receive federal funds for each breakfast and lunch served. These programs are administered at the federal level by the USDA and in each state by a state child nutrition agency, typically located in the state department of education or agriculture.

Who Can Receive Breakfast and Lunch?

Any student attending a school that offers the program can eat breakfast and lunch. What the federal government covers, and what a student pays, depends on family income. The 2022–2023 school year marked the end of the pandemic waivers that allowed schools to offer breakfast and lunch to all students, so most schools returned to the free, reduced-price, and paid eligibility described below.

- ▶ 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 for breakfast and no more than \$0.40 for lunch.
- ▶ Children from families with incomes above 185 percent of the FPL pay school breakfast and lunch fees (referred to as “paid meals”), which are set by the school.

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.

(continued on next page)



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. Forty-one states also use income information from [Medicaid](#) to directly certify students as eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; two additional states use Medicaid to directly certify students as eligible for free school meals.

Schools should use data from the state to certify other categorically eligible students when it is available. Schools also 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 2022–2023³ school year, schools received reimbursements at the following rates:

- ▶ \$2.26 per free breakfast and \$4.58 per free lunch
- ▶ \$1.96 per reduced-price breakfast and \$4.18 per reduced-price lunch
- ▶ \$0.50 per paid breakfast and \$0.93 per paid lunch

“Severe-need” schools received an additional \$0.38 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 and Lunch Free to All

Offering free meals to all students reduces the stigma often associated with means-tested school breakfast and school lunch, opens the program to children from families who would struggle to pay the reduced-price copayment or the paid breakfast and lunch charges, and streamlines the implementation of breakfast in the classroom and other alternative service models.

From March 2020 through June 2022, schools were able to offer free meals to all students through nationwide waivers. Moving forward, schools can offer free meals to all through the following [federal options](#), which were available prior to and during the pandemic. Schools in states that have passed Healthy School Meals for All policies must utilize one of the following options to offer free meals to all students and receive federal reimbursements.

- ▶ **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.

- ▶ **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 multiyear cycle, called the “base year.” That data will 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.

- ▶ **Provision 3:** Schools using Provision 3 are required to serve meals to participating students at no charge and have a reduced application burden and meal counting and claiming procedures. Schools receive a comparable level of federal cash and commodity assistance as the school received in the last year in which free and reduced-price eligibility determinations were made, adjusted for enrollment, inflation, and operating days if applicable, for a period up to four years.

- ▶ **Non-pricing:** No fees are collected from students while schools continue to receive federal reimbursements for the meals⁴ served under the three-tier federal fee categories (free, reduced-price, and paid).



School Breakfast During the 2022–2023 School Year

School breakfast participation fell during the 2022–2023 school year in all but eight states. As schools returned to normal operations and the nationwide waivers expired, many of the barriers that kept children from participating in breakfast before the pandemic, e.g., bus schedules and timing of breakfast service, reemerged.

Prior to the pandemic, schools were making progress in increasing breakfast participation and reducing the gap between breakfast and lunch participation by implementing innovative service models — such as breakfast in the classroom, grab and go breakfast, and second chance breakfast — which help overcome the common timing and location barriers to participation in school breakfast. States and schools need to reprioritize these efforts to ensure that children can start the school day ready to learn.

- ▶ On an average school day during the 2022–2023 school year, **just over 14.3 million children received a school breakfast** — a decrease of nearly 1.2 million (7.7 percent) children when compared to the 2021–2022 school year.
- ▶ Of the total number of children participating in school breakfast during the 2022–2023 school year, **10.8 million (75.6 percent) received a free breakfast, 500,299 (3.5 percent) received a reduced-price breakfast**, and nearly 3 million (20.9 percent) received a paid breakfast.
- ▶ **Nearly 2.2 billion total breakfasts were served** through the School Breakfast Program during the 2022–2023 school year — a decrease of just over 204.9 million breakfasts when compared to the 2021–2022 school year.



Breakfast After the Bell Boosts Participation

Implementing a breakfast after the bell service model has been shown to increase participation and can help reduce any stigma associated with eating breakfast at school. As school meals operations return to normal, expanding access through innovative breakfast service models can help to offset drops in participation. There are three primary options for serving 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 their breakfast from carts or kiosks in the hallway or the cafeteria line to eat in their classroom or in common areas.
- ▶ **Second chance breakfast:** Students are offered a second chance to eat breakfast after the school day starts. Many middle and high school students are not hungry first thing in the morning but are ready to eat breakfast after their first class of the day, helping them to focus on their classes until lunch time.

► **Forty-two states and the District of Columbia saw a decrease in breakfast participation on an average day** in the 2022–2023 school year compared to the 2021–2022 school year.

► **Only eight states** — California (12.8 percent), Kentucky (1.5 percent), Maine (7.8 percent), Massachusetts (11.5 percent), North Carolina (0.2 percent), Pennsylvania (3.7 percent), Texas (1.7 percent), and Vermont (7.6 percent) — **saw an increase in participation.**

- » Four of these states — California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont — implemented Healthy School Meals for All legislation in the 2022–2023 school year, which helped them counteract the end of the waivers.
 - » Almost 90 percent of the schools serving breakfast and lunch in Kentucky participated in community eligibility.
 - » In Pennsylvania, state legislation allocated funding to cover the cost of offering breakfast at no charge to all students during the 2022–2023 school year.
 - » North Carolina and Texas saw a sizeable increase in schools adopting community eligibility during the 2022–2023 school year, with 95 additional schools (9.8 percent) participating in North Carolina, and 491 additional schools (13.1 percent) participating in Texas.⁵
- **The gap between school breakfast and lunch participation grew in the 2022–2023 school year compared to the previous year.** Only 50.9 children received a school breakfast for every 100 children who received a school lunch, a decrease from 51.9 per 100 in the 2021–2022 school year.



School Lunch During the 2022–2023 School Year

School lunch also lost significant ground during the 2022–2023 school year in comparison to the 2021–2022 school year.

- ▶ On an average school day during the 2022–2023 school year, just **over 28.1 million children received a school lunch** — a decrease of 1.8 million (6 percent) children when compared to the 2021–2022 school year.
- ▶ Of the total number of children participating in school lunch during the 2022–2023 school year, **18.6 million (66.2 percent) received a free lunch, 1.1 million (3.9 percent) received a reduced-price lunch, and 8.4 million (29.8 percent) received a paid lunch.**
- ▶ **Just over 4.2 billion total lunches were served through the National School Lunch Program during the 2022–2023 school year** — a decrease of nearly 302.2 million lunches compared to the 2021–2022 school year.
- ▶ **Forty-two states and the District of Columbia saw a decrease in lunch participation on an average day** in the 2022–2023 school year compared to the 2021–2022 school year.
- ▶ **Only eight states** — California (4.2 percent), Connecticut (0.2 percent), Kentucky (3.3 percent), Louisiana (2.9 percent), Maine (7.1 percent), Massachusetts (3.7 percent), North Carolina (2.9 percent), and Vermont (6.7 percent) — **saw an increase in lunch participation in the 2022–2023 school year compared to the 2021–2022 school year.**



- » Four of these states — California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont — implemented Healthy School Meals for All legislation in the 2022–2023 school year.
- » The other four states either implemented community eligibility broadly — more than

90 percent of schools serving breakfast and lunch in Kentucky and more than 85 percent in Louisiana were participating in community eligibility — or increased the use of community eligibility significantly, with Connecticut and North Carolina increasing school participation by 15 percent and 9.8 percent respectively.⁵



Looking Ahead: Opportunities to Bolster Breakfast and Lunch

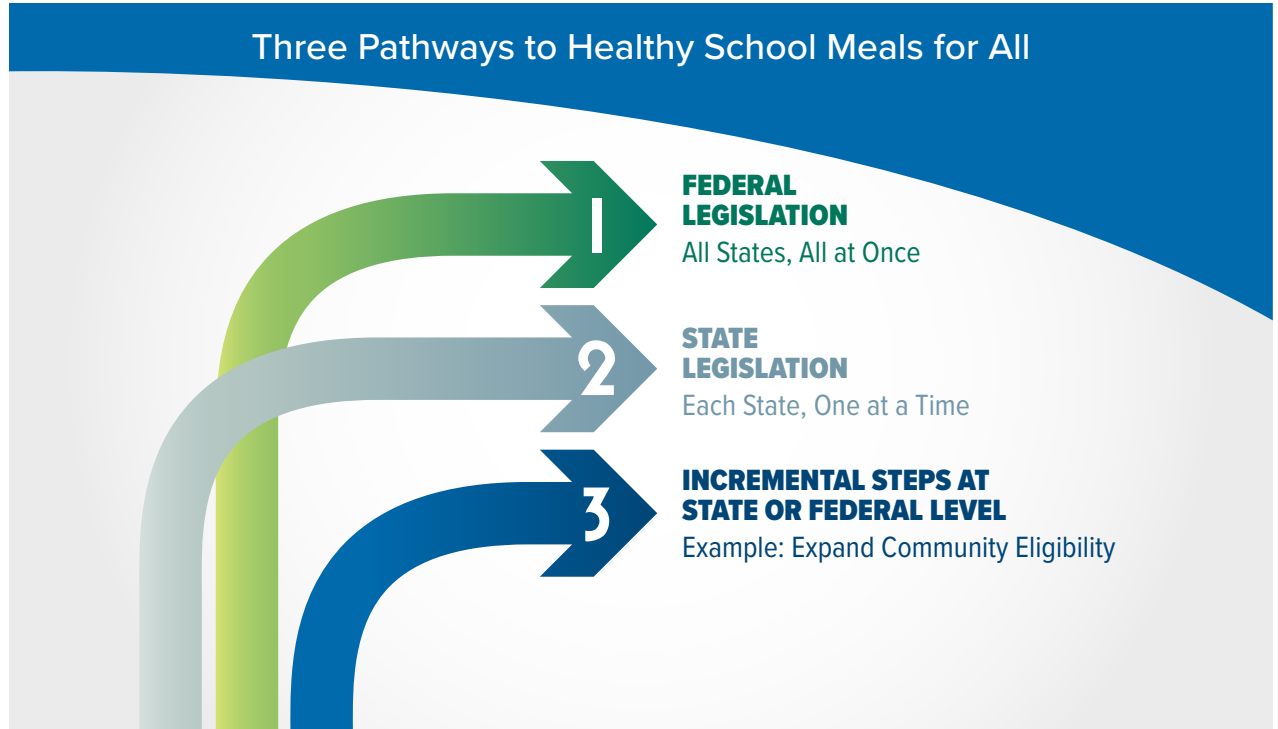
It will take bold and targeted action on the local, state, and federal levels to ensure access to school meals. Additional investments on the federal and state levels in making Healthy School Meals for All a reality is the most effective way to increase participation in both programs. On the local level, schools and advocates must recommit to the implementation of proven best practices that boost participation, such as breakfast after the bell, to eliminate the access barriers that keep breakfast participation trailing lunch.

Healthy School Meals for All

The nationwide pandemic child nutrition waivers offered a trial run of Healthy School Meals for All during the pandemic and highlighted just what is possible when schools can offer meals at no charge to all students. Across the country, states are stepping up to fill the gap left by the expiration of those nationwide waivers. In lieu of Congressional action, eight states — California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Vermont — have now implemented permanent Healthy School Meals for All policies. While this momentum on the state level is inspiring and impactful, it cannot replace action on the federal level. Several bills have been introduced in Congress to support Healthy School Meals for All; advancing these bills will most effectively fill the nutrition gap left by the pandemic.

There are many pathways to Healthy School Meals for All. The following strategies would ensure meals are available to all children, at no cost to families, alongside their textbooks and technology.

► **Federal legislation.** Enacting legislation is the most effective way to make free school meals accessible to all students throughout the country.



Spotlight on Federal Healthy School Meals for All Legislation

Legislation has been introduced on the federal level to support the expansion of Healthy School Meals for All. Advocates in every state can work with their Members of Congress to support these important bills.

- **Universal School Meals Program Act** ([S.1568/H.R.3204](#)): Creates a nationwide Healthy School Meals for All program.
- **School Meals Expansion Act** ([H.R.2567](#)): Increases federal funding for community eligibility schools and makes more schools eligible.
- **No Hungry Kids in School Act** ([H.R.3112](#)): Creates a statewide community eligibility option.
- **Expanding Access to School Meals Act** ([H.R.3113](#)): Increases eligibility for free meals to 200 percent and expands direct certification, resulting in increased federal funding for community eligibility schools and better access to school meals for struggling families.

- ▶ **State legislation.** State momentum for Healthy School Meals for All is growing, largely because schools, families, and students throughout the country have not wanted to return to how the school nutrition programs operated before the pandemic. While eight states have passed permanent legislation, over 25 states have active campaigns. To learn more, check out the [Healthy School Meals for All website](#).
- ▶ **Maximizing Community Eligibility Provision.** In October 2023, USDA released a [final rule](#) that provides 3,000 additional school districts the opportunity to offer nutritious meals to all students at no cost by lowering the eligibility threshold from 40 percent identified students to 25 percent. Maximizing participation in CEP remains an important strategy for Healthy School Meals for All for schools and states.
- ▶ **Certification processes improvements and expansion.** Increasing the number of children from households with low incomes who are directly certified to receive free school meals without an application would ensure more eligible children do not fall through the cracks. At this time, 43 states are participating in [Medicaid Direct Certification](#). USDA continues to accept applications from states for the 2025–2026 school year.

Community Eligibility

The Community Eligibility Provision allows high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch free of charge to all students. During the 2022–2023 school year, 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 — could choose to participate. Under the new USDA rule, schools can participate with 25 percent or more “identified students.”



“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, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations benefits, or, in many states, Medicaid benefits; and
- ▶ **children who are certified for free meals without an application** because they are homeless, migrant, enrolled in Head Start, or in foster care.

Community eligibility schools are reimbursed for meals served, based on a formula. To account for children who would have been certified through a school meal application, 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 is 80), and at the paid rate for 20 percent.

School districts also were able to 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, and now can participate at 25 percent or higher. Find out which schools in your state or community are participating or eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision in [FRAC’s database](#).

Conclusion

Breakfast and lunch participation decreased in the 2022–2023 school year compared to the 2021–2022 school year, and the gap between breakfast and lunch participation also increased. State Healthy School Meals for All policies in five states allowed many schools to continue to offer meals to all students at no charge, ensuring that all children in their state continued to have access to school meals.

The return to normal school meal operations, and its impact on participation, highlight the need for policymakers, advocates, and schools to bolster efforts and recommit to ensuring that school breakfast and school lunch are accessible to every child every school day. This includes fully maximizing CEP and investing in Healthy School Meals for All on both the state and federal levels, combined with a focus on the strategies needed to expand school breakfast, so that all children have access to the school breakfasts and lunches they need to continue learning throughout the school day.

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.



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.

Student Participation

The student participation data in each state is based on daily averages of the number of breakfasts and lunches served through the available program options on school days during the nine months from September through May. FRAC calculated the number of children reached in each state during each school year by dividing the total number of breakfasts and lunches served by each state's average number of serving days during the corresponding school year. The pandemic impacted which federal child nutrition programs schools operated to provide breakfasts and lunches as well program operations. The following bullets describe the data adjustments made to each school year to account for the impact of the pandemic on the available data.

- ▶ **During the 2021–2022 school year**, average daily participation is based on the number of breakfasts and lunches served through the School Breakfast Program (SBP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), and each state's average number of serving days in SBP and NSLP during the 2018–2019 school year. While FRAC would normally use the service days from the corresponding year (in this case, it would be 2021–2022) to determine

the number of children served, disruptions to the number of traditional service days — and the transition to SSO in most states — in those years would not provide a fair comparison. Using the 2018–2019 service days assumes that school schedules were consistent with pre-COVID-19 pandemic schedules.

- ▶ **During the 2022–2023 school year**, average daily participation is based on the number of breakfasts and lunches served through School Breakfast and National School Lunch Program and each state's average number of serving days in SBP and NSLP during the 2022–2023 school year. Twelve states reported to USDA that they served breakfasts and lunches through SSO in the 2022–2023 school year. Those numbers are included in their participation data because meals served through SSO are included in the free category of meals served in SBP and NSLP instead of being reported separately.

Breakfasts and lunches served through SSO have historically been reported in the free category of SBP or NSLP. During the 2021–2022 school year, schools were using SSO broadly through the USDA waivers. In normal years, including the 2022–2023 school year, SSO participation during the school year is outside of the regular school day, and are “summer meals,” which includes meals served in September before the school year starts, and during extended breaks at year-round schools or unanticipated school closures.

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 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 school years.

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 nonprofit private schools, residential child care institutions, and other institutions that operate school meals programs. FRAC's *The Reach of School Breakfast and Lunch During the 2022–2023 School Year* report 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.

Endnotes

- 1 Nevada also implemented Healthy School Meals for All during the 2022–2023 school year. The state had an [increase](#) in total school lunch participation compared to the 2018–2019 school year (the year prior to the pandemic) but experienced a decrease in school breakfast participation. The state’s total participation in breakfast and lunch dropped from the 2021–2022 school year, a year when schools also were offering free meals to all students.
- 2 For more information on how the School Nutrition Programs worked during the 2021–2022 school year when nationwide waivers were available, read [The Reach of School Breakfast and Lunch During the 2021–2022 School Year](#).
- 3 The Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 provided an additional 40 cents for each lunch served and 15 cents for each breakfast served for the 2022–2023 school year. These increases are included in the reimbursement rates listed.
- 4 School lunch fees are required to be equitable to the federal free reimbursement rate. States and school districts can provide non-federal funds to eliminate or keep school lunch fees low. This rule does not apply to breakfast fees. Under certain circumstances, this requirement has been waived.
- 5 [Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger Free Schools — School Year 2022–2023](#). (2023). Food Research & Action Center.

Table 1: Total Average Daily Participation in School Breakfast and Lunch, School Years 2021–2022¹ and 2022–2023

State	School Year 2021–2022			School Year 2022–2023			% Change: SY 2021–2022 to 2022–2023	
	Average Daily Participation in Breakfast	Average Daily Participation in Lunch	Breakfast to Lunch Participation Ratio	Average Daily Participation in Breakfast	Average Daily Participation in Lunch	Breakfast to Lunch Participation Ratio	% Change in Breakfast Average Daily Participation	% Change in Lunch Average Daily Participation
Alabama	307,178	519,430	59.1	268,322	482,073	55.7	-12.6%	-7.2%
Alaska	25,749	50,558	50.9	21,445	42,612	50.3	-16.7%	-15.7%
Arizona	319,881	670,508	47.7	253,209	545,950	46.4	-20.8%	-18.6%
Arkansas	203,369	311,720	65.2	193,313	305,445	63.3	-4.9%	-2.0%
California	1,550,114	3,075,213	50.4	1,749,211	3,205,414	54.6	12.8%	4.2%
Colorado	202,961	433,471	46.8	140,097	341,686	41.0	-31.0%	-21.2%
Connecticut	149,143	314,868	47.4	142,375	315,345	45.1	-4.5%	0.2%
Delaware	53,859	92,203	58.4	50,914	91,336	55.7	-5.5%	-0.9%
District of Columbia	55,802	68,071	82.0	36,609	48,343	75.7	-34.4%	-29.0%
Florida	820,733	1,761,802	46.6	782,819	1,689,960	46.3	-4.6%	-4.1%
Georgia	676,407	1,170,408	57.8	616,602	1,083,830	56.9	-8.8%	-7.4%
Hawaii	27,721	92,717	29.9	26,884	89,866	29.9	-3.0%	-3.1%
Idaho	74,438	167,776	44.4	53,310	133,458	39.9	-28.4%	-20.5%
Illinois	448,909	998,885	44.9	401,778	908,867	44.2	-10.5%	-9.0%
Indiana	308,304	724,756	42.5	307,451	706,642	43.5	-0.3%	-2.5%
Iowa	148,484	383,960	38.7	119,176	360,962	33.0	-19.7%	-6.0%
Kansas	162,237	353,500	45.9	122,913	313,535	39.2	-24.2%	-11.3%
Kentucky	306,105	470,212	65.1	310,606	485,935	63.9	1.5%	3.3%
Louisiana	278,163	479,662	58.0	273,915	493,761	55.5	-1.5%	2.9%
Maine	61,985	105,178	58.9	66,804	112,661	59.3	7.8%	7.1%
Maryland	265,027	477,460	55.5	222,075	412,367	53.9	-16.2%	-13.6%
Massachusetts	237,991	571,647	41.6	265,363	592,896	44.8	11.5%	3.7%
Michigan	465,727	857,326	54.3	409,170	773,811	52.9	-12.1%	-9.7%
Minnesota	326,653	684,765	47.7	227,474	575,079	39.6	-30.4%	-16.0%
Mississippi	201,884	330,269	61.1	183,536	312,057	58.8	-9.1%	-5.5%
Missouri	355,324	606,152	58.6	285,906	525,326	54.4	-19.5%	-13.3%
Montana	49,539	86,425	57.3	37,741	74,634	50.6	-23.8%	-13.6%
Nebraska	94,911	255,619	37.1	80,608	240,257	33.6	-15.1%	-6.0%
Nevada	139,605	250,434	55.7	123,084	235,415	52.3	-11.8%	-6.0%
New Hampshire	45,193	95,337	47.4	23,509	74,535	31.5	-48.0%	-21.8%
New Jersey	394,451	813,439	48.5	339,680	627,759	54.1	-13.9%	-22.8%
New Mexico	135,044	193,086	69.9	125,497	184,352	68.1	-7.1%	-4.5%
New York	904,662	1,649,711	54.8	792,856	1,578,532	50.2	-12.4%	-4.3%
North Carolina	428,917	732,698	58.5	429,935	753,656	57.0	0.2%	2.9%
North Dakota	42,373	96,617	43.9	33,221	93,028	35.7	-21.6%	-3.7%
Ohio	568,939	1,077,387	52.8	442,544	926,339	47.8	-22.2%	-14.0%
Oklahoma	228,006	408,666	55.8	201,967	390,062	51.8	-11.4%	-4.6%
Oregon	142,196	271,018	52.5	130,988	265,234	49.4	-7.9%	-2.1%
Pennsylvania	477,687	1,010,572	47.3	495,269	951,369	52.1	3.7%	-5.9%
Rhode Island	39,461	78,122	50.5	30,558	70,157	43.6	-22.6%	-10.2%
South Carolina	287,358	475,779	60.4	259,258	450,893	57.5	-9.8%	-5.2%
South Dakota	43,558	110,065	39.6	29,616	100,326	29.5	-32.0%	-8.8%
Tennessee	391,770	654,500	59.9	361,183	611,820	59.0	-7.8%	-6.5%
Texas	1,785,293	3,366,772	53.0	1,815,077	3,334,834	54.4	1.7%	-0.9%
Utah	116,371	358,233	32.5	72,043	308,197	23.4	-38.1%	-14.0%
Vermont	32,778	51,268	63.9	35,255	54,704	64.4	7.6%	6.7%
Virginia	447,640	784,591	57.1	386,520	697,829	55.4	-13.7%	-11.1%
Washington	240,803	567,425	42.4	202,109	464,759	43.5	-16.1%	-18.1%
West Virginia	142,224	174,232	81.6	135,866	166,504	81.6	-4.5%	-4.4%
Wisconsin	273,775	530,315	51.6	190,724	471,463	40.5	-30.3%	-11.1%
Wyoming	25,791	51,597	50.0	15,819	43,928	36.0	-38.7%	-14.9%
Total	15,512,493	29,916,425	51.9	14,322,204	28,119,800	50.9	-7.7%	-6.0%

¹ Average Daily Participation in SBP and NSLP includes meals served through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). SSO meals are normally served during summer breaks, extended breaks for year-round schools, and unanticipated school closures. During the 2021–2022 school year, the vast majority of meals were served through SSO at no charge to all students through the pandemic child nutrition waivers.

Table 2: Average Daily Participation In Breakfast by Fee Type, School Years 2021–2022 and 2022–2023

State	Students Receiving a Free ¹ Breakfast				Students Receiving a Reduced-Price ² Breakfast				Students Receiving a Paid Breakfast			
	2021–2022	%	2022–2023	%	2021–2022	%	2022–2023	%	2021–2022	%	2022–2023	%
Alabama	307,178	100.0%	213,812	79.7%	—	0.0%	9,567	3.6%	—	0.0%	44,943	16.7%
Alaska	25,749	100.0%	15,843	73.9%	—	0.0%	906	4.2%	—	0.0%	4,696	21.9%
Arizona	319,577	99.9%	179,550	70.9%	17	0.0%	18,855	7.4%	287	0.1%	54,805	21.6%
Arkansas	203,238	99.9%	126,745	65.6%	35	0.0%	20,259	10.5%	96	0.0%	46,310	24.0%
California	1,548,247	99.9%	1,186,969	67.9%	194	0.0%	31,955	1.8%	1,673	0.1%	530,287	30.3%
Colorado	202,914	100.0%	85,344	60.9%	8	0.0%	14,969	10.7%	39	0.0%	39,784	28.4%
Connecticut	149,139	100.0%	101,013	70.9%	1	0.0%	3,272	2.3%	3	0.0%	38,090	26.8%
Delaware	53,819	99.9%	32,372	63.6%	13	0.0%	1,203	2.4%	27	0.1%	17,338	34.1%
District of Columbia	55,514	99.5%	30,773	84.1%	19	0.0%	246	0.7%	269	0.5%	5,589	15.3%
Florida	814,773	99.3%	676,635	86.4%	934	0.1%	14,121	1.8%	5,026	0.6%	92,062	11.8%
Georgia	676,407	100.0%	459,536	74.5%	—	0.0%	35,423	5.7%	—	0.0%	121,643	19.7%
Hawaii	27,721	100.0%	18,540	69.0%	—	0.0%	1,674	6.2%	—	0.0%	6,670	24.8%
Idaho	74,438	100.0%	29,295	55.0%	—	0.0%	5,987	11.2%	—	0.0%	18,027	33.8%
Illinois	448,842	100.0%	356,908	88.8%	9	0.0%	3,968	1.0%	58	0.0%	40,902	10.2%
Indiana	308,266	100.0%	229,571	74.7%	—	0.0%	14,943	4.9%	38	0.0%	62,938	20.5%
Iowa	148,484	100.0%	82,265	69.0%	—	0.0%	5,076	4.3%	—	0.0%	31,835	26.7%
Kansas	162,237	100.0%	81,357	66.2%	—	0.0%	10,623	8.6%	—	0.0%	30,933	25.2%
Kentucky	306,105	100.0%	277,974	89.5%	—	0.0%	1,642	0.5%	—	0.0%	30,990	10.0%
Louisiana	278,163	100.0%	243,687	89.0%	—	0.0%	2,264	0.8%	—	0.0%	27,964	10.2%
Maine	61,985	100.0%	25,467	38.1%	—	0.0%	2,801	4.2%	—	0.0%	38,536	57.7%
Maryland	264,941	100.0%	152,108	68.5%	8	0.0%	14,037	6.3%	78	0.0%	55,929	25.2%
Massachusetts	237,991	100.0%	192,081	72.4%	—	0.0%	2,564	1.0%	—	0.0%	70,719	26.6%
Michigan	465,639	100.0%	338,220	82.7%	11	0.0%	8,040	2.0%	77	0.0%	62,909	15.4%
Minnesota	326,555	100.0%	120,178	52.8%	21	0.0%	21,224	9.3%	77	0.0%	86,072	37.8%
Mississippi	201,884	100.0%	150,511	82.0%	—	0.0%	11,483	6.3%	—	0.0%	21,542	11.7%
Missouri	354,742	99.8%	178,014	62.3%	56	0.0%	22,837	8.0%	526	0.1%	85,055	29.7%
Montana	49,378	99.7%	23,510	62.3%	18	0.0%	2,223	5.9%	143	0.3%	12,008	31.8%
Nebraska	94,905	100.0%	56,526	70.1%	—	0.0%	5,451	6.8%	6	0.0%	18,631	23.1%
Nevada	139,605	100.0%	96,585	78.5%	—	0.0%	540	0.4%	—	0.0%	25,959	21.1%
New Hampshire	45,061	99.7%	9,758	41.5%	2	0.0%	1,998	8.5%	130	0.3%	11,753	50.0%
New Jersey	394,419	100.0%	223,842	65.9%	10	0.0%	24,748	7.3%	22	0.0%	91,090	26.8%
New Mexico	135,006	100.0%	102,741	81.9%	1	0.0%	1,650	1.3%	37	0.0%	21,107	16.8%
New York	904,343	100.0%	707,736	89.3%	11	0.0%	8,224	1.0%	308	0.0%	76,895	9.7%
North Carolina	428,599	99.9%	343,270	79.8%	35	0.0%	13,312	3.1%	283	0.1%	73,353	17.1%
North Dakota	42,373	100.0%	14,596	43.9%	—	0.0%	2,866	8.6%	—	0.0%	15,759	47.4%
Ohio	568,911	100.0%	308,494	69.7%	6	0.0%	20,710	4.7%	22	0.0%	113,339	25.6%
Oklahoma	228,006	100.0%	136,844	67.8%	—	0.0%	16,019	7.9%	—	0.0%	49,104	24.3%
Oregon	142,196	100.0%	83,987	64.1%	—	0.0%	2,487	1.9%	—	0.0%	44,514	34.0%
Pennsylvania	477,631	100.0%	370,129	74.7%	5	0.0%	5,918	1.2%	51	0.0%	119,222	24.1%
Rhode Island	39,409	99.9%	21,872	71.6%	8	0.0%	1,608	5.3%	44	0.1%	7,078	23.2%
South Carolina	287,343	100.0%	202,887	78.3%	4	0.0%	7,805	3.0%	11	0.0%	48,566	18.7%
South Dakota	43,557	100.0%	16,924	57.1%	1	0.0%	2,685	9.1%	—	0.0%	10,008	33.8%
Tennessee	391,735	100.0%	255,042	70.6%	1	0.0%	17,278	4.8%	34	0.0%	88,863	24.6%
Texas	1,778,349	99.6%	1,530,337	84.3%	863	0.0%	51,800	2.9%	6,081	0.3%	232,940	12.8%
Utah	114,327	98.2%	40,072	55.6%	258	0.2%	6,838	9.5%	1,786	1.5%	25,133	34.9%
Vermont	32,767	100.0%	13,477	38.2%	—	0.0%	1,286	3.6%	11	0.0%	20,493	58.1%
Virginia	447,638	100.0%	291,888	75.5%	—	0.0%	8,122	2.1%	2	0.0%	86,511	22.4%
Washington	240,751	100.0%	145,083	71.8%	10	0.0%	5,534	2.7%	42	0.0%	51,491	25.5%
West Virginia	142,191	100.0%	112,361	82.7%	4	0.0%	689	0.5%	29	0.0%	22,816	16.8%
Wisconsin	273,770	100.0%	124,648	65.4%	—	0.0%	8,507	4.5%	5	0.0%	57,569	30.2%
Wyoming	25,791	100.0%	7,387	46.7%	—	0.0%	2,061	13.0%	—	0.0%	6,370	40.3%
Total	15,492,609	99.9%	10,824,765	75.6%	2,563	0.0%	500,299	3.5%	17,321	0.1%	2,997,140	20.9%

1 This includes breakfasts served at no charge through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). SSO breakfasts are normally served during summer breaks, extended breaks for year-round schools, and unanticipated school closures. During the 2021–2022 school year, the vast majority of breakfasts were served through SSO at no charge to all students through the pandemic child nutrition waivers.

2 States that have participation in the reduced-price and paid fee category during the 2021–2022 school year are in districts that did not adopt the SSO waiver and missed out on the opportunity to offer free meals to all of their students.

Table 3: Average Daily Participation In Lunch by Fee Type, School Years 2021–2022 and 2022–2023

State	Students Receiving a Free ¹ Lunch				Students Receiving a Reduced-Price ² Lunch				Students Receiving a Paid Lunch			
	2021–2022	%	2022–2023	%	2021–2022	%	2022–2023	%	2021–2022	%	2022–2023	%
Alabama	519,430	100.0%	356,588	74.0%	—	0.0%	18,584	3.9%	—	0.0%	106,900	22.2%
Alaska	50,558	100.0%	29,300	68.8%	—	0.0%	1,988	4.7%	—	0.0%	11,324	26.6%
Arizona	669,650	99.9%	334,472	61.3%	103	0.0%	44,985	8.2%	755	0.1%	166,493	30.5%
Arkansas	310,917	99.7%	184,808	60.5%	107	0.0%	33,278	10.9%	696	0.2%	87,359	28.6%
California	3,069,653	99.8%	2,134,682	66.6%	528	0.0%	59,839	1.9%	5,032	0.2%	1,010,893	31.5%
Colorado	433,375	100.0%	156,973	45.9%	26	0.0%	33,032	9.7%	70	0.0%	151,680	44.4%
Connecticut	314,773	100.0%	185,495	58.8%	3	0.0%	8,595	2.7%	92	0.0%	121,255	38.5%
Delaware	92,150	99.9%	51,527	56.4%	18	0.0%	2,556	2.8%	35	0.0%	37,254	40.8%
District of Columbia	67,834	99.7%	40,077	82.9%	43	0.1%	417	0.9%	194	0.3%	7,849	16.2%
Florida	1,733,599	98.4%	1,390,519	82.3%	4,167	0.2%	37,212	2.2%	24,036	1.4%	262,229	15.5%
Georgia	1,170,408	100.0%	720,593	66.5%	—	0.0%	67,271	6.2%	—	0.0%	295,966	27.3%
Hawaii	92,680	100.0%	49,706	55.3%	7	0.0%	6,540	7.3%	30	0.0%	33,620	37.4%
Idaho	167,776	100.0%	56,309	42.2%	—	0.0%	15,274	11.4%	—	0.0%	61,875	46.4%
Illinois	998,171	99.9%	682,101	75.0%	44	0.0%	14,807	1.6%	670	0.1%	211,959	23.3%
Indiana	724,606	100.0%	412,919	58.4%	13	0.0%	38,553	5.5%	137	0.0%	255,169	36.1%
Iowa	383,960	100.0%	171,837	47.6%	—	0.0%	15,180	4.2%	0	0.0%	173,945	48.2%
Kansas	353,422	100.0%	153,103	48.8%	2	0.0%	24,399	7.8%	76	0.0%	136,033	43.4%
Kentucky	470,212	100.0%	415,286	85.5%	—	0.0%	3,534	0.7%	—	0.0%	67,114	13.8%
Louisiana	479,662	100.0%	407,334	82.5%	—	0.0%	6,390	1.3%	—	0.0%	80,037	16.2%
Maine	105,178	100.0%	38,612	34.3%	—	0.0%	4,350	3.9%	—	0.0%	69,699	61.9%
Maryland	477,193	99.9%	261,522	63.4%	20	0.0%	27,267	6.6%	247	0.1%	123,578	30.0%
Massachusetts	571,647	100.0%	335,798	56.6%	—	0.0%	7,456	1.3%	—	0.0%	249,642	42.1%
Michigan	856,553	99.9%	543,916	70.3%	30	0.0%	20,309	2.6%	743	0.1%	209,586	27.1%
Minnesota	684,347	99.9%	226,629	39.4%	74	0.0%	49,037	8.5%	344	0.1%	299,413	52.1%
Mississippi	330,269	100.0%	234,899	75.3%	—	0.0%	22,352	7.2%	—	0.0%	54,805	17.6%
Missouri	603,327	99.5%	261,136	49.7%	153	0.0%	41,317	7.9%	2,672	0.4%	222,873	42.4%
Montana	85,912	99.4%	35,968	48.2%	47	0.1%	4,703	6.3%	466	0.5%	33,963	45.5%
Nebraska	255,512	100.0%	114,596	47.7%	2	0.0%	17,183	7.2%	105	0.0%	108,478	45.2%
Nevada	250,434	100.0%	171,397	72.8%	—	0.0%	1,890	0.8%	—	0.0%	62,129	26.4%
New Hampshire	94,679	99.3%	20,664	27.7%	17	0.0%	4,582	6.1%	641	0.7%	49,289	66.1%
New Jersey	813,191	100.0%	330,258	52.6%	46	0.0%	48,472	7.7%	202	0.0%	249,028	39.7%
New Mexico	193,042	100.0%	144,875	78.6%	1	0.0%	3,270	1.8%	43	0.0%	36,208	19.6%
New York	1,648,571	99.9%	1,267,716	80.3%	21	0.0%	20,590	1.3%	1,119	0.1%	290,226	18.4%
North Carolina	732,202	99.9%	561,566	74.5%	59	0.0%	26,995	3.6%	437	0.1%	165,095	21.9%
North Dakota	96,617	100.0%	25,871	27.8%	—	0.0%	6,399	6.9%	—	0.0%	60,758	65.3%
Ohio	1,075,461	99.8%	504,364	54.4%	87	0.0%	48,452	5.2%	1,839	0.2%	373,523	40.3%
Oklahoma	408,666	100.0%	237,626	60.9%	—	0.0%	33,363	8.6%	—	0.0%	119,073	30.5%
Oregon	271,005	100.0%	155,054	58.5%	3	0.0%	5,793	2.2%	10	0.0%	104,386	39.4%
Pennsylvania	1,009,184	99.9%	645,358	67.8%	36	0.0%	13,820	1.5%	1,352	0.1%	292,190	30.7%
Rhode Island	78,038	99.9%	38,649	55.1%	16	0.0%	4,321	6.2%	68	0.1%	27,187	38.8%
South Carolina	475,774	100.0%	321,133	71.2%	3	0.0%	16,920	3.8%	2	0.0%	112,840	25.0%
South Dakota	109,993	99.9%	33,818	33.7%	—	0.0%	7,561	7.5%	72	0.1%	58,947	58.8%
Tennessee	654,453	100.0%	385,104	62.9%	2	0.0%	32,393	5.3%	45	0.0%	194,323	31.8%
Texas	3,350,031	99.5%	2,528,786	75.8%	1,830	0.1%	118,492	3.6%	14,911	0.4%	687,557	20.6%
Utah	358,233	100.0%	104,856	34.0%	—	0.0%	24,383	7.9%	—	0.0%	178,958	58.1%
Vermont	51,236	99.9%	18,484	33.8%	1	0.0%	1,968	3.6%	31	0.1%	34,252	62.6%
Virginia	784,591	100.0%	452,287	64.8%	—	0.0%	18,279	2.6%	—	0.0%	227,262	32.6%
Washington	566,871	99.9%	290,194	62.4%	78	0.0%	16,090	3.5%	476	0.1%	158,475	34.1%
West Virginia	174,170	100.0%	133,898	80.4%	3	0.0%	936	0.6%	59	0.0%	31,670	19.0%
Wisconsin	530,315	100.0%	244,329	51.8%	—	0.0%	22,146	4.7%	—	0.0%	204,989	43.5%
Wyoming	51,597	100.0%	15,087	34.3%	—	0.0%	5,232	11.9%	—	0.0%	23,610	53.7%
Total	29,851,128	99.8%	18,618,078	66.2%	7,590	0.0%	1,108,755	3.9%	57,707	0.2%	8,392,967	29.8%

1 This includes lunches served at no charge through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). SSO breakfasts are normally served during summer breaks, extended breaks for year-round schools, and unanticipated school closures. During the 2021–2022 school year, the vast majority of breakfasts were served through SSO at no charge to all students through the pandemic child nutrition waivers.

2 States that have participation in the reduced-price and paid fee category during the 2021–2022 school year are in districts that did not adopt the SSO waiver and missed out on the opportunity to offer free meals to all of their students.

Table 4: School Breakfasts and Lunches Served by Type, School Year 2022–2023¹

State	Free ¹		Reduced-Price ²		Paid		Total Meals Served: SY 2022–2023		Change in Number of Meals Served From SY 2021–2022 to 2022–2023 ²	
	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch
Alabama	31,472,138	52,451,311	1,408,195	2,733,630	6,615,401	15,724,161	39,495,734	70,909,102	-5,762,134	-5,522,539
Alaska	2,326,923	4,266,200	133,007	289,427	689,808	1,648,904	3,149,738	6,204,531	-813,721	-1,504,178
Arizona	25,929,793	48,032,673	2,722,897	6,460,236	7,914,640	23,909,582	36,567,330	78,402,491	-10,416,146	-19,113,759
Arkansas	18,918,701	27,629,717	3,023,953	4,975,181	6,912,454	13,060,609	28,855,108	45,665,507	-2,057,191	-1,651,648
California	180,084,393	323,448,437	4,845,241	9,066,825	80,404,992	153,171,148	265,334,626	485,686,410	28,743,028	16,903,507
Colorado	12,526,464	23,313,161	2,197,063	4,905,843	5,839,426	22,527,069	20,562,953	50,746,073	-9,590,891	-13,965,718
Connecticut	15,807,905	29,031,897	512,060	1,345,248	5,960,893	18,977,695	22,280,858	49,354,840	-1,058,755	-45,343
Delaware	4,802,864	7,662,139	178,538	380,015	2,572,319	5,539,679	7,553,721	13,581,833	-505,776	-236,368
District of Columbia	4,666,084	6,078,083	37,326	63,217	847,473	1,190,407	5,550,883	7,331,707	-3,392,857	-3,574,402
Florida	101,087,992	207,292,677	2,109,709	5,547,364	13,753,912	39,092,027	116,951,613	251,932,068	-10,398,684	-20,882,917
Georgia	66,531,665	104,192,178	5,128,474	9,726,942	17,611,451	42,794,411	89,271,590	156,713,531	-9,328,919	-13,596,417
Hawaii	2,715,048	7,228,513	245,200	951,137	976,754	4,889,265	3,937,002	13,068,915	-216,964	-760,414
Idaho	4,181,866	8,125,558	854,651	2,204,004	2,573,409	8,928,684	7,609,926	19,258,246	-3,490,124	-5,498,921
Illinois	54,945,289	103,434,359	610,851	2,245,316	6,296,790	32,141,690	61,852,930	137,821,365	-7,837,142	-15,268,388
Indiana	33,714,324	60,889,586	2,194,484	5,685,086	9,242,886	37,627,607	45,151,694	104,202,279	-76,167	-2,867,228
Iowa	12,711,828	26,701,164	784,292	2,358,749	4,919,292	27,028,604	18,415,412	56,088,517	-4,707,371	-3,736,389
Kansas	11,775,315	22,001,016	1,537,535	3,506,101	4,477,181	19,548,134	17,790,031	45,055,251	-5,457,237	-5,251,412
Kentucky	40,101,819	60,070,466	236,873	511,250	4,470,795	9,707,968	44,809,487	70,289,684	770,932	2,460,850
Louisiana	34,826,630	58,198,932	323,584	912,994	3,996,426	11,435,539	39,146,640	70,547,465	-876,824	1,556,053
Maine	3,832,523	5,818,478	421,544	655,582	5,799,281	10,503,036	10,053,348	16,977,096	695,290	1,056,406
Maryland	23,676,868	40,689,712	2,184,979	4,242,424	8,705,860	19,227,237	34,567,707	64,159,373	-6,711,233	-10,753,582
Massachusetts	29,526,372	51,144,069	394,058	1,135,664	10,870,792	38,022,009	40,791,222	90,301,742	3,921,470	3,431,437
Michigan	50,724,701	80,174,758	1,205,860	2,993,642	9,434,786	30,893,565	61,365,347	114,061,965	-7,887,088	-10,607,641
Minnesota	18,019,436	34,150,955	3,182,321	7,389,509	12,905,552	45,118,827	34,107,309	86,659,291	-15,294,816	-17,200,588
Mississippi	22,304,056	34,771,307	1,701,667	3,308,747	3,192,281	8,112,657	27,198,004	46,192,711	-2,939,137	-3,027,053
Missouri	25,984,472	38,309,295	3,333,467	6,061,256	12,415,291	32,695,925	41,733,230	77,066,476	-11,520,390	-13,126,625
Montana	3,655,064	5,586,772	345,613	730,542	1,866,962	5,275,406	5,867,639	11,592,720	-1,953,908	-2,007,525
Nebraska	8,216,219	16,674,537	792,262	2,500,202	2,708,056	15,784,258	11,716,537	34,958,997	-2,282,989	-2,554,689
Nevada	14,629,516	26,010,071	81,814	286,743	3,932,030	9,428,234	18,643,360	35,725,048	-2,437,205	-2,123,508
New Hampshire	1,479,142	3,106,610	302,882	688,857	1,781,462	7,409,975	3,563,486	11,205,442	-3,415,364	-3,396,416
New Jersey	34,142,208	54,053,985	3,774,805	7,933,570	13,893,706	40,758,837	51,810,719	102,746,392	-11,071,129	-23,051,653
New Mexico	14,752,175	21,250,423	236,860	479,634	3,030,631	5,311,045	18,019,666	27,041,102	-1,483,096	-844,869
New York	108,725,268	189,741,022	1,263,404	3,081,697	11,812,939	43,438,547	121,801,611	236,261,266	-17,038,880	-9,976,387
North Carolina	53,525,668	87,851,324	2,075,770	4,223,163	11,437,891	25,827,392	67,039,329	117,901,879	1,387,738	5,142,814
North Dakota	2,208,820	3,934,734	433,681	973,143	2,384,762	9,240,598	5,027,263	14,148,475	-1,639,649	-1,157,903
Ohio	47,343,266	77,743,183	3,178,350	7,468,417	17,393,725	57,575,118	67,915,341	142,786,718	-18,095,464	-20,666,307
Oklahoma	18,835,596	32,914,007	2,204,902	4,621,125	6,758,771	16,493,041	27,799,269	54,028,173	-3,970,015	-3,162,764
Oregon	12,242,325	22,661,646	362,449	846,727	6,488,542	15,256,371	19,093,316	38,764,744	-2,146,405	-1,662,542
Pennsylvania	58,288,028	101,449,225	932,024	2,172,484	18,775,040	45,931,801	77,995,092	149,553,510	2,405,295	-10,005,787
Rhode Island	3,301,635	5,856,665	242,810	654,770	1,068,400	4,119,783	4,612,845	10,631,218	-1,588,211	-1,579,257
South Carolina	30,886,786	48,860,368	1,188,269	2,574,304	7,393,578	17,168,639	39,468,633	68,603,311	-4,955,662	-4,623,386
South Dakota	2,443,996	4,963,217	387,683	1,109,691	1,445,210	8,651,296	4,276,889	14,724,204	-2,084,922	-1,695,385
Tennessee	36,451,384	55,171,468	2,469,464	4,640,678	12,700,604	27,839,519	51,621,452	87,651,665	-5,736,631	-7,928,596
Texas	227,474,575	374,271,958	7,699,671	17,537,390	34,625,050	101,761,558	269,799,296	493,570,906	-10,063,021	-29,063,647
Utah	6,063,182	15,809,095	1,034,597	3,676,156	3,802,846	26,981,366	10,900,625	46,466,617	-7,102,796	-8,687,014
Vermont	2,016,905	2,762,105	192,486	294,046	3,066,939	5,118,396	5,276,330	8,174,547	259,320	348,118
Virginia	44,074,822	68,107,438	1,226,363	2,752,483	13,063,059	34,222,168	58,364,244	105,082,089	-8,521,409	-12,639,756
Washington	24,880,698	49,085,340	949,122	2,721,559	8,830,366	26,805,479	34,660,186	78,612,378	-1,651,117	-6,807,698
West Virginia	17,028,444	20,350,925	104,414	142,277	3,457,796	4,813,522	20,590,654	25,306,724	-538,243	-526,268
Wisconsin	19,440,208	37,749,484	1,326,820	3,421,608	8,978,462	31,671,328	29,745,490	72,842,420	-13,424,556	-9,194,546
Wyoming	1,117,825	2,242,397	311,933	777,718	963,899	3,509,203	2,393,657	6,529,318	-1,591,072	-1,505,995
Total	1,626,419,224	2,793,314,640	74,626,277	165,964,373	451,060,871	1,263,909,319	2,152,106,372	4,223,188,332	-204,948,238	-302,154,243

1 This includes breakfasts and lunches served at no charge through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). SSO breakfasts are normally served during summer breaks, extended breaks for year-round schools, and unanticipated school closures. During the 2021–2022 school year, the vast majority of breakfasts and lunches were served through SSO at no charge to all students through the pandemic child nutrition waivers.

2 Year-to-year fluctuations in the number of days of service can cause average daily participation to increase, even though fewer breakfasts or lunches are served (or vice versa).

Table 5: School Participation in School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast (SBP), School Years 2021–2022 and 2022–2023

State	School Year 2021–2022			School Year 2022–2023		
	SBP Schools	NSLP Schools	SBP Schools as % of NSLP Schools	SBP Schools	NSLP Schools	SBP Schools as % of NSLP
Alabama	1,433	1,455	98.5%	1,443	1,468	98.3%
Alaska	384	414	92.8%	351	379	92.6%
Arizona	1,817	1,874	97.0%	1,743	1,794	97.2%
Arkansas	1,058	1,066	99.2%	1,061	1,073	98.9%
California	8,966	9,550	93.9%	9,756	9,808	99.5%
Colorado	1,589	1,750	90.8%	1,543	1,787	86.3%
Connecticut	951	1,038	91.6%	950	1,024	92.8%
Delaware	258	257	100.4%	253	252	100.4%
District of Columbia	257	257	100.0%	243	244	99.6%
Florida	3,233	3,286	98.4%	3,920	3,970	98.7%
Georgia	2,286	2,285	100.0%	2,339	2,345	99.7%
Hawaii	277	281	98.6%	254	257	98.8%
Idaho	640	663	96.5%	647	675	95.9%
Illinois	3,589	4,092	87.7%	3,533	4,028	87.7%
Indiana	1,947	2,085	93.4%	1,955	2,087	93.7%
Iowa	1,269	2,821	45.0%	1,259	1,340	94.0%
Kansas	1,309	1,372	95.4%	1,265	1,335	94.8%
Kentucky	1,296	1,300	99.7%	1,287	1,316	97.8%
Louisiana	1,409	1,469	95.9%	1,377	1,437	95.8%
Maine	575	593	97.0%	571	584	97.8%
Maryland	1,426	1,437	99.2%	1,432	1,446	99.0%
Massachusetts	1,949	2,121	91.9%	1,775	1,905	93.2%
Michigan	3,161	3,357	94.2%	3,101	3,224	96.2%
Minnesota	144	106	135.8%	1,743	1,908	91.4%
Mississippi	853	874	97.6%	853	877	97.3%
Missouri	2,272	2,381	95.4%	2,295	2,390	96.0%
Montana	745	789	94.4%	734	781	94.0%
Nebraska	789	923	85.5%	788	926	85.1%
Nevada	639	683	93.6%	572	597	95.8%
New Hampshire	415	442	93.9%	417	443	94.1%
New Jersey	3,622	3,565	101.6%	2,239	2,617	85.6%
New Mexico	833	859	97.0%	837	882	94.9%
New York	4,885	5,073	96.3%	4,767	4,973	95.9%
North Carolina	2,562	2,589	99.0%	2,527	2,555	98.9%
North Dakota	376	408	92.2%	376	405	92.8%
Ohio	3,273	3,552	92.1%	3,235	3,526	91.7%
Oklahoma	1,830	1,845	99.2%	1,819	1,830	99.4%
Oregon	218	237	92.0%	1,206	1,237	97.5%
Pennsylvania	2,299	2,393	96.1%	3,132	3,260	96.1%
Rhode Island	330	336	98.2%	328	333	98.5%
South Carolina ¹	—	—	—	1,174	1,175	99.9%
South Dakota	364	404	90.1%	162	185	87.6%
Tennessee	1,740	1,783	97.6%	1,742	1,759	99.0%
Texas	8,599	9,229	93.2%	8,559	8,521	100.4%
Utah	934	976	95.7%	923	956	96.5%
Vermont	317	320	99.1%	321	325	98.8%
Virginia	1,259	1,270	99.1%	1,958	1,961	99.8%
Washington	2,059	2,127	96.8%	2,054	2,131	96.4%
West Virginia	669	689	97.1%	682	689	99.0%
Wisconsin	639	669	95.5%	2,092	2,367	88.4%
Wyoming	293	311	94.2%	307	318	96.5%
Total	84,037	89,656	93.7%	89,900	93,705	95.9%

¹ School data for South Carolina during the 2021–2022 school year was not available at the time of publication.



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