

A young boy with dark, curly hair is smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt over a white t-shirt and has a dark blue backpack on his shoulders. He is standing in a library or bookstore, with bookshelves filled with books visible in the background. The lighting is bright and natural, creating a positive and inviting atmosphere.

The Reach of Breakfast and Lunch: A Look at Pandemic and Pre-Pandemic Participation

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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.



Executive Summary

For decades, millions of low-income children have benefited from federally funded breakfasts and lunches provided through the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP). These child nutrition programs support academic achievement, reduce food insecurity, and improve health,¹ making them as critical for students' academic success as textbooks and transportation. This role has become more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced unprecedented food insecurity and economic hardships for families across the country, and has further exacerbated already existing inequities for Black and Latinx families.² Yet, access to meals has decreased when comparing participation rates before the pandemic (2018–2019 school year) to the first two school years during the pandemic (2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years) despite the spike in need.

In March 2020, schools across the country shuttered in response to the pandemic, and a majority of school districts provided instruction virtually or through a hybrid model for part or all of the 2020–2021 school year.³ This shift away from students being physically in school caused significant new challenges for schools to provide meals that families could still access.

Nationwide child nutrition waivers were issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that spring that have been key to supporting continued access to breakfast and lunch as communities struggle with and adapt to the ongoing public health crisis. The flexibilities provided by the waivers have

made it possible for meals to be served safely during the pandemic, including allowing meals to be taken home, for parents or guardians to pick up meals for their children, and for multiple days' worth of meals to be distributed at one time. Most impactful, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) waivers have allowed schools (and other SFSP sponsors) to offer meals at no charge to all children while also reducing the administrative burden on school nutrition departments, eliminating school meals debt, reducing stigma, and providing a level of reimbursement that is more commensurate with the additional costs created by the pandemic.

While these waivers have enabled schools to continue providing meals, the pandemic has simultaneously exacerbated existing barriers to school meals participation while introducing new ones: staffing limitations, additional transportation needs, limited access to meal sites during remote learning days, and extreme supply chain disruptions. All of these challenges and more have further stretched already tight school budgets and resources. Despite the creativity and hard work of school nutrition departments to reach children with breakfasts and lunches regardless of what the school day looks like, school meals have lost important ground when compared to pre-pandemic participation levels.

To analyze the impact COVID-19 has had on access to breakfast and lunch, this report looks at participation across the 2018–2019, 2019–2020, and 2020–2021 school years.

KEY FINDINGS

- ▶ Nearly 14.0 million children received breakfast and 19.8 million children received lunch on an average day during the 2020–2021 school year; When compared to breakfast and lunch participation rates during the 2018–2019 school year (i.e., the last full school year before the pandemic), this reflects a decrease of 692,000 children (4.7 percent) and 8.8 million children (30.7 percent), respectively.
- ▶ During the 2020–2021 school year, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 2.1 billion breakfasts were served through SFSP, SSO, and SBP combined, a decrease of 102.9 million, or 4.6 percent, when compared to 2.2 billion in the 2018–2019 school year.
- ▶ Lunch saw an even more dramatic drop: During the 2020–2021 school year, almost 3.0 billion lunches were served through SFSP, SSO, and NSLP combined, a decrease of 1.4 billion, or 32.4 percent, when compared to 4.4 billion in the 2018–2019 school year.

Breakfast and Lunch Participation Pre-Pandemic (2018–2019 School Year) Compared to the 2020–2021 School Year

NEARLY **14.0 million**

children received breakfast and 19.8 million children received lunch on an average day during the 2020–2021 school year; a decrease of 4.7 percent and 30.7 percent, respectively, from the 2018–2019 school year.

MORE THAN **2.1 billion**

breakfasts were served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), and the regular school year School Breakfast Program combined, a decrease of 102.9 million, or 4.6 percent, when compared to 2.2 billion in the 2018–2019 school year.

ALMOST **3.0 billion**

lunches were served through SFSP, SSO, and the regular school year National School Lunch Program combined, a decrease of 1.4 billion, or 32.4 percent, when compared to 4.4 billion in the 2018–2019 school year.

1 Food Research & Action Center. (2019). *School Meals are Essential for Student Health and Learning*. Available at: https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/School-Meals-are-Essential-Health-and-Learning_FNL.pdf. Accessed on January 3, 2022.

2 Food Research & Action Center. (n.d.). Food Insecurity During COVID-19 (webpage). Available at: <https://frac.org/foodinsufficiencycovid19/>. Accessed on January 3, 2022.

3 Education Week. (2020). *Map: Where Were Schools Required to Be Open for the 2020-21 School Year?* Available at: <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/map-where-are-schools-closed/2020/07/>. Accessed on January 18, 2022.

- ▶ A gap in participation between breakfast and lunch remained but decreased during the pandemic. This was driven by the 30.7 percent decrease in lunch participation in the 2020–2021 school year compared to the 2018–2019 school year.

These national trends are reflected in nearly every state and the District of Columbia. As states and school districts make plans for the 2022–2023 school year, the expansion strategies that worked before the pandemic, such as breakfast after the bell programs, enacting state breakfast and lunch legislation as a vehicle for change, increasing stakeholder engagement, and improving the quality and appeal of meals served during the school day, offer important strategies to help School Nutrition Programs recover from the financial challenges caused by the pandemic. Strategies to support strong participation in school

meals support the economies of scale that are critical to the financial viability of the School Nutrition Programs.

In addition, school nutrition departments will need ongoing support from USDA and policymakers to recover from the financial and operational challenges created by the pandemic. The waivers that have been critical to maintaining school meal operations must remain available as long as needed. Similarly, the funding provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act to offset the reduced participation in spring 2020, the higher reimbursement rate provided by SFSP under the SSO waiver during the 2020–2021 school year, and the much-needed \$1.5 billion that USDA has made available to help overcome the supply chain challenges during the current school year have helped bolster school nutrition finances, and more of these types of financial support may be needed.

Most impactful has been the opportunity for schools to offer meals to all children at no charge, an option that has been critical during the pandemic. In order to fully overcome the educational, health, and economic impacts of the pandemic on children and families, and the financial challenges created by the pandemic for school nutrition departments, offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students should remain the new normal for all schools across the country.

As the country approaches the second anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, school meals are at a critical crossroads. Now is the time to consider the role that these programs have played — and should play — in supporting children’s health and well-being moving forward, and ensure they not only regain lost ground but also grow to fully meet children’s nutritional needs.



About This Report

This report is unique from the annual *School Breakfast Scorecard* that FRAC has released in previous years. It has been restructured to provide an in-depth analysis of participation in breakfast and lunch that accounts for the changes in child nutrition policy and school operations that were made in response to COVID-19.

This report measures the reach of breakfast and lunch in the 2018–2019, 2019–2020, and 2020–2021 school years (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 three-year analysis allows for a closer look at participation prior to the pandemic compared to participation during the first two school years that were impacted by COVID-19.

In response to the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued waivers that allowed schools to serve meals to all students at no charge through the

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) available through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during the 2019–2020 school year, beginning in March 2019 and for all of the 2020–2021 school year. To accurately reflect access to breakfasts and lunches during those two school years, this report includes participation in SFSP and SSO in addition to participation in the regular school year School Breakfast Program (SBP) and NSLP. For the 2018–2019 school year, participation and total meal data include breakfasts served through SBP and lunches served through NSLP. The SFSP data for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years include those meals served by both schools and non-school sponsors.

Meals served through the SFSP and SSO waivers in the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years were provided at no charge to all children and were counted as “free meals” in the report. To account for this

change, the report does not focus primarily on free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch participation.

The change in school operations during the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years — many schools provided instruction virtually or through a hybrid model that incorporated both virtual and in-person learning — corresponded with a dramatic decrease in lunch participation. Prior to the pandemic, school breakfast participation among students certified for free or reduced-price school meals was just over half the participation in school lunch, making the comparison an important measure in the school breakfast program’s reach. This is why FRAC previously set a national benchmark of reaching 70 low-income students with school breakfast for every 100 that participated in school lunch; however, the decrease in school lunch participation limits the utility of this measure, so states are not ranked based on meeting this measure as they have been in previous Scorecards.



How Could Breakfasts and Lunches be Served?

Any public school, nonprofit private school, or residential child care institution could participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and receive federal funds for each breakfast and lunch served. Additionally, beginning in March 2020, these entities could operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), which is available through NSLP, to serve breakfasts and lunches in place of the regular school year SBP and NSLP. Local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations (such as Boys & Girls Clubs, park and recreation agencies, and YMCAs) also were able to provide meals through SFSP. These programs are administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and in each state by a state child nutrition agency, typically located in the state department of education or agriculture.

Who Could Receive Breakfast and Lunch?

The vast majority of schools participated in SFSP or SSO during the spring of 2020 and the 2020–2021 school year, and offered free meals to all children, regardless of family income and specific school enrollment. This eased the administrative burden on schools by allowing them to bypass the certification process detailed in the next section, and better allowed schools to meet students’ nutritional needs during a public health crisis and a time of increased food insecurity.

Students attending a school that participated in NSLP or SBP (as operated during a normal school year) could be certified and eat breakfast and lunch like any other year. For these schools, what the federal government covered, and what a student paid, depended 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.

How Were Children Certified for Free or Reduced-Price Meals if Schools Operated SBP or NSLP?

Most children are certified for free or reduced-price school 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 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 Were School Districts Reimbursed?

If schools operated SFSP during the 2020–2021 school year, they received the same reimbursement amount for each meal served, but meals served at sites located in rural areas or that prepared their own meals (“self-prep”) were reimbursed at a slightly higher rate than other sites.

- ▶ Through December 31, 2020
 - » \$2.38 for rural or self-prep breakfasts and \$2.33 for vended breakfasts
 - » \$4.15 for rural or self-prep lunches and \$4.09 for vended lunches
- ▶ From January 1, 2021, through the end of the 2020–2021 school year
 - » \$2.46 for rural or self-prep breakfasts and \$2.42 for vended breakfasts
 - » \$4.32 for rural or self-prep lunches and \$4.25 for vended lunches

If schools chose to continue operating SBP and NSLP during the 2020–2021 school year, the federal reimbursement rate schools received for each meal served depended on whether a student was receiving free, reduced-price, or paid meals.

For the 2020–2021 school year, schools received reimbursements at the following rates:

- ▶ \$1.89 per free breakfast and \$3.60 per free lunch;
- ▶ \$1.59 per reduced-price breakfast and \$3.20 per reduced-price lunch; and
- ▶ \$0.32 per “paid” breakfast and \$0.42 per “paid” lunch.

“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. The lunch reimbursement rates above are the higher rates that include the additional funding for meeting nutrition standards and the \$0.02 differential.

All the meals served through SSO during the 2020–2021 school year were reimbursed at the free rates for NSLP and SBP listed above. Alaska and Hawaii receive higher per meal reimbursement rates for NSLP, SBP, and SFSP.

Offering Breakfast and Lunch Free to All

During the 2020–2021 school year, the vast majority of meals — 99.4 percent of breakfasts and 99.8 percent of lunches — were offered to children at no charge. Offering free meals to all students removes the stigma often associated with means-tested school breakfast and 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. Schools that participated in SFSP or SSO offered meals to all children at no charge. Schools that operated the regular school year SBP and NSLP could offer free meals to all through the Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2 or 3, or Non-pricing.

[Learn more about these options.](#)

Community-Based SFSP Sponsors

As noted above, local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations, in addition to schools, are able to sponsor SFSP. During the pandemic, many of these organizations played a critical role in responding to the economic and health crisis created by the pandemic, and helped ensure that children had access to nutritious meals. Some served communities where schools were unable to provide meals, and others partnered with school districts that were providing meals in order to fill in access gaps. While this report focuses on school nutrition operations and the majority of meals were served by schools, the efforts of these non-school sponsors ensured that many families had the meals they needed to keep hunger at bay. The SFSP meals provided by non-school sponsors are included in the data in this report.

2018–2019 School Year Pre-Pandemic

The 2018–2019 school year provides an important look at participation during the most recent full school year before COVID-19.

- ▶ On an average school day, 14.6 million children participated in the School Breakfast Program; 11.7 million of them received a free breakfast, 739,000 received a reduced-price breakfast, and 2.2 million received a paid school breakfast.
- ▶ On an average day, almost 28.6 million children participated in the National School Lunch Program; 19.9 million of them received a free lunch, 1.6 million received a reduced-price lunch, and 7.1 million received a paid lunch.
- ▶ The overall ratio of children participating in school breakfast to children participating in school lunch was 51.3 per 100.

2019–2020 School Year Schools Shutter in March

During the 2019–2020 school year, schools were open for normal, in-person operations and continued as such through February 2020. In March 2020, COVID-19 forced most schools to move to remote learning and to begin serving meals through the Summer Food Service Program or the Seamless Summer Option. Many states saw drops in meals served, beginning in March when they implemented “grab and go” and other non-congregate meal options that reduced their average daily meal participation over the course of the school year.

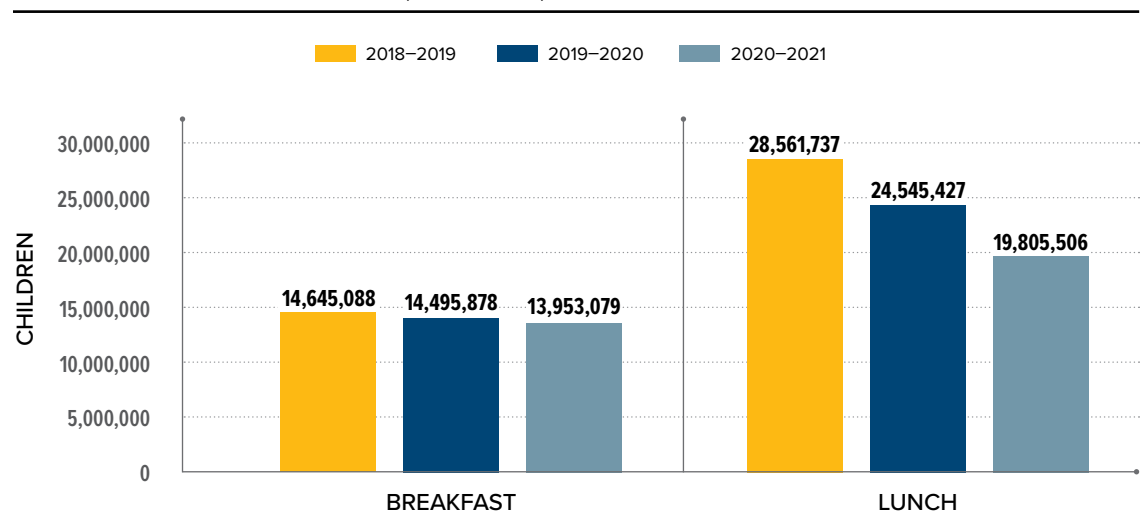
- ▶ On an average school day, 14.5 million children participated in breakfast; 12.3 million of them received a free breakfast, 532,000 received a reduced-price breakfast, and 1.7 million received a paid breakfast.
- ▶ On an average day, just over 24.5 million children participated in lunch; 17.7 million of them received a free lunch, 1.2 million of them received a reduced-price lunch, and 5.6 million of them received a paid lunch.
- ▶ The overall ratio of children participating in breakfast to children participating in lunch was 59.1 per 100.

2020–2021 School Year Schools Continue Remote and Hybrid Models

Schools were operating various schedules in response to COVID-19 during the 2020–2021 school year, including fully virtual, fully in-person, and a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning. For many school districts, the schedules changed during the year.

- ▶ On an average school day, almost 14.0 million children participated in breakfast; almost 13.9 million of them received a free breakfast, 15,000 of them received a reduced-price breakfast, and 64,000 of them received a paid breakfast.
- ▶ On an average day, just over 19.8 million children participated in lunch; almost 19.6 million of them received a free lunch, 34,000 of them received a reduced-price lunch, and 210,000 of them received a paid lunch.
- ▶ The overall ratio of children participating in breakfast to children participating in lunch was 70.5 per 100.

Average Daily Participation (ADP) in Breakfast and Lunch:
2018–2019, 2019–2020, and 2020–2021 School Years



For a closer look at participation during the 2018–2019 school year, read FRAC’s [School Breakfast Scorecard: School Year 2018–2019](#).

For a closer look at participation pre- and post-pandemic, read FRAC’s [School Breakfast Scorecard: School Year 2019–2020](#) (which includes data from September 2019 through February 2020) and FRAC’s [COVID-19 and School Meals Participation in Spring 2020](#).



Breakfast During COVID-19

Breakfast participation has always lagged behind lunch participation, but participation was moving in the right direction before schools shuttered in March 2020 due to the pandemic. The best practices that have been driving increased participation, such as offering breakfast at no charge to all students and serving meals through breakfast after the bell service models, were helping many schools

overcome the common access barriers, including timing, convenience, and stigma, which have led to lower participation.

Compared to lunch, breakfast participation has not dropped as dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a smaller but still concerning gap between breakfast and lunch participation. This disproportionate impact that the pandemic has had

on breakfast compared to lunch is most likely due to the relatively low breakfast participation prior to COVID-19 compared to lunch participation. Additionally, nationwide waivers have allowed meal providers to distribute breakfasts and lunches at the same time and at no charge, which has helped overcome many of the previously cited barriers to reaching students with breakfast.

During the 2020–2021 School Year

NEARLY
14.0 million children

Nearly 14.0 million children received a breakfast on an average day, with 13,875,000 children receiving a free breakfast, 15,000 children receiving a reduced-price breakfast, and 64,000 children receiving a paid breakfast.⁴



Despite the vast majority of schools offering breakfast at no charge to all students, the 2.2 million increase in free breakfast participation was not enough to offset the 2.9 million children decrease in reduced-price and paid participation when compared to the 2018–2019 school year.

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Twenty-two states saw an increase in the total number of breakfasts served when compared to the 2019–2020 school year; 18 states saw an increase in the total number of breakfasts served when compared to the 2018–2019 school year.

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Breakfast participation was lower when compared to the 2018–2019 school year (14.6 million children) and 2019–2020 school year (14.5 million children).



Just over 2.1 billion total breakfasts were served through the Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option, and School Breakfast Program during the 2020–2021 school year.

Participation in free breakfast made up 99.4 percent of total participation, compared to 84.6 percent in the 2019–2020 school year (when the waivers were available beginning in March), and 79.9 percent in the 2018–2019 school year (when the waivers were not available).

When compared to the 2018–2019 school year, 102.9 million fewer breakfasts were served, and 1.1 million fewer breakfasts were served when compared to the 2019–2020 school year.

Change in Average Daily Participation in School Breakfast



14.6 million children reached in the 2018–2019 school year

14.5 million children reached in the 2019–2020 school year

14.0 million children reached in the 2020–2021 school year

⁴ The free breakfasts include all of the breakfasts served through the Seamless Summer Option, the Summer Food Service Program, and the free breakfasts served through the regular school-year School Breakfast Program. The reduced-price and paid breakfasts were served through the regular school-year School Breakfast Program.

Lunch During COVID-19


Lunch experienced a more drastic drop in participation during COVID-19 compared to breakfast. Because breakfast had less participation prior to the pandemic and the provision of “grab and go” meals allowed

school districts to provide breakfast and lunch at the same time, lunch became less accessible when students were not physically at school and eating lunch together in the cafeteria.

During the 2020–2021 School Year

 **JUST OVER 19.8 million children**

Just over 19.8 million children received a school lunch, with 19,562,000 children receiving a free lunch, 34,000 children receiving a reduced-price lunch, and 210,000 children receiving a paid lunch.

 Lunch participation was lower when compared to the 2018–2019 school year (28.6 million children; a decrease of 8.8 million children) and the 2019–2020 school year (24.5 million children; a decrease of 4.7 million children).

Participation in free lunch made up 98.8 percent of total participation, compared to 72.1 percent in the 2019–2020 school year (when the waivers were available beginning in March), and 69.7 percent in the 2018–2019 school year (when the waivers were not available).



The vast majority of schools offered lunch at no charge to all students, but there was not a simple shift in participation from the paid category to free. Instead, participation dropped in every category compared to the 2018–2019 school year: 331,000 fewer children received free meals, 1.5 million fewer children received reduced-price meals, and 6.9 million fewer children received paid meals.



Almost 3.0 billion total lunches were served through the Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option, and National School Lunch Program during the 2020–2021 school year.

 When compared to the 2018–2019 school year, 1.4 billion fewer lunches were served, and 719.0 million fewer lunches were served when compared to the 2019–2020 school year.

The waivers have been a tremendous help for all schools. The simplified documentation (all free) and point of service procedures have helped school sites operate more efficiently in difficult/extreme times. Additionally, the financial impact (ability to receive higher Summer Food Service Program rates) has been huge. School Food Authorities need additional support (financial and otherwise) more than ever during the pandemic.

— Shanna Legier, Education Program Consultant, Nutrition Support, Louisiana Department of Education



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All but eight states saw a decrease in the total number of lunches served when compared to the 2019–2020 school year; only one state, Wyoming, saw an increase in the total number of lunches served when compared to the 2018–2019 school year.



Looking Ahead: Opportunities to Maximize Breakfast and Lunch

Despite significant efforts in all states to keep breakfast and lunch accessible during the 2020–2021 school year, millions of children were not getting the school meals they needed. Many of the challenges facing school nutrition departments — including hybrid and remote learning models, COVID-19 quarantines and exposures, supply chain concerns, and staffing shortages — are still very much in play one year later. To fully address the increased nutrition gap that has resulted from the pandemic, it is critical that additional investments are made and targeted strategies are used.

Extend the COVID-19 Child Nutrition Waiver Authority

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the authority to issue nationwide child nutrition waivers to address access and operational challenges created by the pandemic, allowing School Nutrition Programs to adapt to changes, such as school closures and virtual learning, as needed.

At the time of this report's release (February 2022), USDA's authority to issue and extend nationwide waivers has only been extended to June 30, 2022, and waivers cannot be provided beyond the 2021–2022 school year (which the statute defines as ending each year on June 30). The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, and USDA will need additional waiver authority to support schools and program operators through the summer and next school year. All of the state agencies that completed the survey for this report responded that the waivers have been — and will continue to be — critical to maintaining participation while also reducing stigma, providing adequate reimbursement, and allowing meals to be served safely.⁵ To ensure that the child nutrition programs continue to operate, Congress must again extend USDA's nationwide waiver authority and provide USDA flexibility needed to respond to the pandemic as well as its aftermath.

While still in the midst of a pandemic, being able to offer all meals at no cost to the student, under the Seamless Summer Option, has helped increase access to meals and helped with de-stigmatization.

Additionally, being able to claim meals at the higher Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rate has helped programs who have operated in a deficit over the past 20 months.

— Office for Food and Nutrition Programs, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Healthy School Meals for All

Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 3 schools participating in the School Nutrition Programs was offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. From March 2020 through the 2021–2022 school year, all schools have been given the opportunity to do this through the Seamless Summer Option and Summer Food Service Program.

Healthy School Meals for All Through State Legislation: CALIFORNIA AND MAINE

In 2021, California and Maine became the first states to enact legislation to offer free school breakfast and lunch to all of their students. California's [legislation](#), led by Speaker Nancy Skinner and supported by Superintendent Tony Thurmond, was made possible through a state budget surplus. Maine's [legislation](#), led by Senate President Troy Jackson and House Speaker Ryan Fecteau, established a Meals for Students Fund and seeded the fund with \$10 million; ongoing work is being done to secure full funding to successfully implement school meals for all Maine students. The California Association of Food Banks and [Full Plates Full Potential](#) in Maine worked with a broad coalition of partners and stakeholders to build support and successfully enact the legislation.

Offering school breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge — also known as [Healthy School Meals for All](#) — helps ensure that all children have the nutrition they need to grow and thrive, and helps overcome the numerous participation barriers, including eliminating

(continued on next page)

The Build Back Better Act Would Transform Child Nutrition

The House-passed Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376) would make historic investments in school meals. The Act would



expand the number of schools that would be able to offer free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision by lowering the eligibility threshold from 40 percent to 25 percent — making more schools eligible — and increasing the multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5 — making it a more financially viable option for eligible schools;



give states the option to implement the Community Eligibility Provision statewide, allowing all students in the state to receive school breakfast and lunch at no charge;



extend Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) nationwide for students who receive free or reduced-price school meals, and would allow states, as well as Indian Tribal Organizations, that participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to provide Summer EBT;



provide \$30 million for school kitchen equipment grants; and



provide \$250 million for a Healthy School Meal Incentives demonstration project.

Combined, these provisions would help reduce hunger, improve health, and support children's academic achievement in every state.







[Learn how your state would benefit from the provisions included in the legislation.](#)

⁵ Forty-two state child nutrition agencies responded to the Food Research & Action Center's survey for this report.

LOOKING AHEAD CONTINUED

the tiered eligibility system that limits access for too many children whose families are struggling to make ends meet, and reducing the stigma associated with participating in school meals. It also helps support school nutrition finances by increasing participation, reducing administrative work, and eliminating school meals debt.

While the [Community Eligibility Provision](#) remains an important opportunity for high-poverty schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, moving forward, bold federal administrative and legislative actions are needed to allow *all* schools to offer meals to every student at no charge. Healthy School Meals for All can be accomplished by enacting legislation, such as the [Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021](#). The following more modest investments would allow more schools to offer meals at no charge to all students or would increase the number of students who are able to receive a free school meal:

- 
 - ▶ expand community eligibility by making more schools eligible, increasing the multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5, and creating a statewide option (as proposed in the Build Back Better Act);
- 
 - ▶ 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; 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.



How Community Eligibility Currently 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.

Community eligibility schools are reimbursed for meals served, based on a formula. Reimbursements to the school are calculated by multiplying the identified student percentage (ISP) 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.

Because the multiplier allows schools, groups of schools, and school districts with higher ISPs (60 percent or higher) to be reimbursed at the free rate for all or nearly all of the meals, the take-up rate for those schools is much higher than for eligible schools with a lower ISP. The current multiplier limits community eligibility from fully supporting high-poverty schools.



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](#).



Building and Maintaining Robust Breakfast After the Bell Programs

As school districts make plans for the 2022–2023 school year, one important way to support academic success and strengthen their School Nutrition Programs is to ensure access to breakfast. Making breakfast 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. Breakfast in the classroom also offers an important strategy to support social distancing and protect 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.

Conclusion

Despite the tireless work of school nutrition departments and other Summer Food Service Program sponsors, and the important foundation that the nationwide waivers have provided for reaching children with meals during the ongoing public health crisis, the reach of breakfast and lunch during the 2020–2021 school year has decreased when compared to the first year of the pandemic (2019–2020 school year) and before the pandemic (2018–2019 school year). It is critical that these programs regain their momentum moving forward.

As the dust settles from COVID-19, more schools should consider breakfast and lunch models that address timing, convenience, and stigma. Moving breakfast out of the cafeteria and making it part of the school day is important to increase access. For lunch, it is important to give students enough time to get through the cafeteria line and eat.



Most importantly, bold action on the part of policymakers in making Healthy School Meals for All a reality is needed to fully move the needle on reaching children with school breakfasts and lunches. This, combined with the implementation of proven best practices and collaboration among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state child nutrition agencies, educators, and anti-hunger advocates, would ensure all students — regardless of income — have the nutritious breakfasts and lunches needed to learn and thrive.

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 **2018–2019 school year** are based on daily averages of the number of breakfasts and lunches served through the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) on school days during the nine months from September through May, 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.

Student participation data for the **2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years** are based on daily averages of the number of breakfasts and lunches served through SBP, NSLP, which includes meals provided through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) on school days during the nine months from September through May. SFSP

became an option during the pandemic through the child nutrition waivers; therefore, SFSP data are included in the calculations beginning in March 2020 of the 2019–2020 school year. FRAC calculated the number of children reached in each state during these two school years by dividing the total number of breakfasts served through SBP, SSO, and SFSP; and the total number of lunches served through NSLP, SSO, and SFSP by each state’s average number of serving days in NSLP and SBP during the 2018–2019 school year. Breakfasts and lunches served through SSO and SFSP are provided at no charge and are included in the free breakfast and lunch meal counts. While FRAC would normally use the service days from the corresponding year (in this case, it would be the 2019–2020 school year and the 2020–2021 school year) to determine the number of children served, disruptions to the number of traditional service days — and the transition to SFSP in many states — in those years would not provide a fair comparison. Using the 2018–2019 school year’s service days assumes that school schedules remain consistent year over year.

The SFSP data for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years include those meals served by both schools and non-school sponsors. Nationwide waivers issued by USDA allowed for non-school sponsors to operate SFSP on school days from March 2020 through the 2020–2021 school year.

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 (of dividing the 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 2018–2019, 2019–2020, and 2020–2021 school years.

Table 1: Total Average Daily Participation (ADP) in Breakfast and Lunch, School Years 2018–2019¹, 2019–2020², and 2020–2021³

State	Breakfast						Lunch					
	School Year 2018–2019 ADP	School Year 2019–2020 ADP	School Year 2020–2021 ADP	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2019–2020	% Change School Years 2019–2020 to 2020–2021	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2020–2021	School Year 2018–2019 ADP	School Year 2019–2020 ADP	School Year 2020–2021 ADP	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2019–2020	% Change School Years 2019–2020 to 2020–2021	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2020–2021
Alabama	271,986	250,466	275,056	-7.9%	10%	1.1%	489,344	407,886	397,480	-16.6%	-2.6%	-18.8%
Alaska	26,369	27,064	23,961	2.6%	-11%	-9.1%	50,991	44,646	31,700	-12.4%	-29.0%	-37.8%
Arizona	312,640	313,548	293,592	0.3%	-6%	-6.1%	605,257	524,761	448,082	-13.3%	-14.6%	-26.0%
Arkansas	193,125	198,551	184,209	2.8%	-7%	-4.6%	304,596	272,856	250,341	-10.4%	-8.3%	-17.8%
California	1,696,935	1,686,605	1,670,281	-0.6%	-1%	-1.6%	3,096,331	2,643,330	1,774,518	-14.6%	-32.9%	-42.7%
Colorado	168,551	165,835	160,939	-1.6%	-3%	-4.5%	346,838	295,874	260,699	-14.7%	-11.9%	-24.8%
Connecticut	113,493	111,159	103,383	-2.1%	-7%	-8.9%	276,237	228,066	162,407	-17.4%	-28.8%	-41.2%
Delaware	53,630	53,664	48,050	0.1%	-10%	-10.4%	95,395	86,885	53,655	-8.9%	-38.2%	-43.8%
District of Columbia	35,321	28,667	11,064	-18.8%	-61%	-68.7%	51,396	41,410	11,578	-19.4%	-72.0%	-77.5%
Florida	866,293	788,979	732,926	-8.9%	-7%	-15.4%	1,703,648	1,368,516	1,272,556	-19.7%	-7.0%	-25.3%
Georgia	650,086	610,132	595,524	-6.1%	-2%	-8.4%	1,150,170	974,297	837,617	-15.3%	-14.0%	-27.2%
Hawaii	32,352	28,009	22,510	-13.4%	-20%	-30.4%	100,234	78,841	39,493	-21.3%	-49.9%	-60.6%
Idaho	70,903	73,337	59,151	3.4%	-19%	-16.6%	145,784	130,158	125,189	-10.7%	-3.8%	-14.1%
Illinois	440,302	462,933	480,880	5.1%	4%	9.2%	998,498	867,088	618,009	-13.2%	-28.7%	-38.1%
Indiana	282,983	296,347	266,622	4.7%	-10%	-5.8%	702,068	606,997	531,015	-13.5%	-12.5%	-24.4%
Iowa	103,834	115,413	120,194	11.2%	4%	15.8%	358,390	310,936	308,710	-13.2%	-0.7%	-13.9%
Kansas	123,685	141,883	140,294	14.7%	-1%	13.4%	318,259	281,516	268,099	-11.5%	-4.8%	-15.8%
Kentucky	326,207	337,475	297,934	3.5%	-12%	-8.7%	507,544	472,134	350,483	-7.0%	-25.8%	-30.9%
Louisiana	294,931	289,701	271,285	-1.8%	-6%	-8.0%	538,127	470,360	413,199	-12.6%	-12.2%	-23.2%
Maine	52,083	61,333	46,850	17.8%	-24%	-10.0%	91,891	87,927	65,822	-4.3%	-25.1%	-28.4%
Maryland	261,956	237,024	153,495	-9.5%	-35%	-41.4%	428,622	346,751	153,448	-19.1%	-55.7%	-64.2%
Massachusetts	213,128	195,238	224,790	-8.4%	15%	5.5%	510,703	404,654	307,519	-20.8%	-24.0%	-39.8%
Michigan	401,241	483,378	453,227	20.5%	-6%	13.0%	782,133	773,856	590,191	-1.1%	-23.7%	-24.5%
Minnesota	239,437	283,042	419,912	18.2%	48%	75.4%	577,355	527,540	563,803	-8.6%	6.9%	-2.3%
Mississippi	197,740	169,818	183,588	-14.1%	8%	-7.2%	348,944	278,704	259,841	-20.1%	-6.8%	-25.5%
Missouri	290,008	301,497	345,514	4.0%	15%	19.1%	542,689	475,244	508,832	-12.4%	7.1%	-6.2%
Montana	39,430	40,649	43,140	3.1%	6%	9.4%	76,665	67,717	70,388	-11.7%	3.9%	-8.2%
Nebraska	81,427	87,327	73,749	7.2%	-16%	-9.4%	233,429	203,208	208,051	-12.9%	2.4%	-10.9%
Nevada	132,442	117,595	94,860	-11.2%	-19%	-28.4%	224,396	190,770	110,291	-15.0%	-42.2%	-50.8%
New Hampshire	22,190	25,368	27,322	14.3%	8%	23.1%	76,635	63,309	48,361	-17.4%	-23.6%	-36.9%
New Jersey	325,980	319,518	527,404	-2.0%	65%	61.8%	657,768	561,276	589,658	-14.7%	5.1%	-10.4%
New Mexico	142,115	140,994	110,033	-0.8%	-22%	-22.6%	206,006	191,601	116,624	-7.0%	-39.1%	-43.4%
New York	788,123	803,045	790,279	1.9%	-2%	0.3%	1,658,709	1,444,026	1,021,054	-12.9%	-29.3%	-38.4%
North Carolina	451,038	485,445	374,848	7.6%	-23%	-16.9%	817,755	728,452	452,135	-10.9%	-37.9%	-44.7%
North Dakota	29,192	35,501	36,853	21.6%	4%	26.2%	88,494	81,341	83,640	-8.1%	2.8%	-5.5%
Ohio	447,540	439,272	447,201	-1.8%	2%	-0.1%	938,057	800,961	727,251	-14.6%	-9.2%	-22.5%
Oklahoma	229,702	239,924	200,394	4.5%	-16%	-12.8%	384,085	382,338	369,791	-0.5%	-3.3%	-3.7%
Oregon	144,875	144,907	139,290	0.0%	-4%	-3.9%	279,791	240,493	148,387	-14.0%	-38.3%	-47.0%
Pennsylvania	416,738	397,084	367,851	-4.7%	-7%	-11.7%	981,174	806,616	573,948	-17.8%	-28.8%	-41.5%
Rhode Island	34,322	30,717	29,355	-10.5%	-4%	-14.5%	74,888	59,703	38,653	-20.3%	-35.3%	-48.4%
South Carolina	267,798	259,575	236,974	-3.1%	-9%	-11.5%	463,465	405,872	329,864	-12.4%	-18.7%	-28.8%
South Dakota	29,524	35,860	35,107	21.5%	-2%	18.9%	100,579	92,483	96,620	-8.0%	4.5%	-3.9%
Tennessee	381,329	361,890	335,297	-5.1%	-7%	-12.1%	627,601	539,582	480,445	-14.0%	-11.0%	-23.4%
Texas	1,931,623	1,705,288	1,402,804	-11.7%	-18%	-27.4%	3,294,983	2,679,902	2,172,268	-18.7%	-18.9%	-34.1%
Utah	85,472	107,652	83,746	26.0%	-22%	-2.0%	317,013	288,069	281,760	-9.1%	-2.2%	-11.1%
Vermont	25,223	30,651	29,272	21.5%	-5%	16.1%	44,115	43,052	38,541	-2.4%	-10.5%	-12.6%
Virginia	357,952	349,806	355,870	-2.3%	2%	-0.6%	681,703	578,017	402,012	-15.2%	-30.4%	-41.0%
Washington	202,090	242,123	279,636	19.8%	15%	38.4%	503,270	448,611	306,376	-10.9%	-31.7%	-39.1%
West Virginia	146,452	152,213	121,850	3.9%	-20%	-16.8%	179,792	177,272	139,172	-1.4%	-21.5%	-22.6%
Wisconsin	196,228	208,812	198,878	6.4%	-5%	1.4%	484,856	426,512	345,590	-12.0%	-19.0%	-28.7%
Wyoming	17,064	23,565	25,834	38.1%	10%	51.4%	45,065	43,012	50,344	-4.6%	17.0%	11.7%
TOTAL	14,645,088	14,495,878	13,953,079	-1.0%	-4%	-4.7%	28,561,737	24,545,427	19,805,506	-14.1%	-19.3%	-30.7%

1 Average Daily Participation during the 2018–2019 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.

2 Average Daily Participation during the 2019–2020 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

3 Average Daily Participation during the 2020–2021 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

Table 2: Total Breakfasts and Lunches Served, School Years 2018–2019¹, 2019–2020², and 2020–2021³

State	Breakfast						Lunch					
	School Year 2018–2019	School Year 2019–2020	School Year 2020–2021	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2019–2020	% Change School Years 2019–2020 to 2020–2021	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2020–2021	School Year 2018–2019	School Year 2019–2020	School Year 2020–2021	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2019–2020	% Change School Years 2019–2020 to 2020–2021	% Change School Years 2018–2019 to 2020–2021
Alabama	40,072,778	35,380,012	40,525,178	-11.7%	15%	1.1%	73,570,228	60,018,493	58,487,319	-18.4%	-2.6%	-20.5%
Alaska	4,058,884	4,045,782	3,688,231	-0.3%	-9%	-9.1%	7,937,908	6,807,261	4,833,411	-14.2%	-29.0%	-39.1%
Arizona	45,919,829	43,882,685	43,122,106	-4.4%	-2%	-6.1%	90,051,380	76,319,218	65,167,307	-15.2%	-14.6%	-27.6%
Arkansas	29,355,318	28,284,338	27,985,571	-3.6%	-1%	-4.7%	47,358,418	41,417,765	38,000,159	-12.5%	-8.3%	-19.8%
California	259,000,788	245,727,345	254,932,604	-5.1%	4%	-1.6%	480,770,402	402,946,904	270,506,016	-16.2%	-32.9%	-43.7%
Colorado	25,041,481	22,482,055	23,910,488	-10.2%	6%	-4.5%	53,658,208	44,170,194	38,919,046	-17.7%	-11.9%	-27.5%
Connecticut	17,760,651	17,058,752	16,178,672	-4.0%	-5%	-8.9%	44,491,698	35,781,597	25,480,240	-19.6%	-28.8%	-42.7%
Delaware	8,025,078	7,873,546	7,190,044	-1.9%	-9%	-10.4%	14,681,973	13,021,156	8,041,132	-11.3%	-38.2%	-45.2%
District of Columbia	5,660,948	4,552,061	1,773,203	-19.6%	-61%	-68.7%	8,350,976	6,634,724	1,854,940	-20.6%	-72.0%	-77.8%
Florida	134,419,696	117,823,593	113,725,629	-12.3%	-3%	-15.4%	267,652,847	211,914,648	197,055,181	-20.8%	-7.0%	-26.4%
Georgia	94,763,653	84,983,184	86,810,010	-10.3%	2%	-8.4%	171,104,349	141,773,161	121,884,444	-17.1%	-14.0%	-28.8%
Hawaii	4,847,862	3,915,194	3,373,144	-19.2%	-14%	-30.4%	15,480,223	11,759,640	5,890,668	-24.0%	-49.9%	-61.9%
Idaho	10,572,931	10,185,851	8,820,576	-3.7%	-13%	-16.6%	22,321,749	19,206,246	18,473,050	-14.0%	-3.8%	-17.2%
Illinois	68,354,147	70,973,699	74,653,513	3.8%	5%	9.2%	155,775,737	132,890,574	94,716,492	-14.7%	-28.7%	-39.2%
Indiana	41,513,314	41,494,593	39,113,236	0.0%	-6%	-5.8%	107,266,097	89,672,802	78,447,775	-16.4%	-12.5%	-26.9%
Iowa	16,169,566	17,296,873	18,717,285	7.0%	8%	15.8%	58,153,444	48,447,110	48,100,181	-16.7%	-0.7%	-17.3%
Kansas	17,723,170	18,860,607	20,103,093	6.4%	7%	13.4%	47,108,965	40,062,491	38,153,201	-15.0%	-4.8%	-19.0%
Kentucky	46,930,413	48,255,439	42,863,086	2.8%	-11%	-8.7%	74,119,167	68,106,033	50,557,724	-8.1%	-25.8%	-31.8%
Louisiana	42,433,844	41,330,615	39,033,907	-2.6%	-6%	-8.0%	78,449,846	67,653,510	59,431,788	-13.8%	-12.2%	-24.2%
Maine	7,863,103	8,788,018	7,073,105	11.8%	-20%	-10.0%	14,398,733	13,309,313	9,963,364	-7.6%	-25.1%	-30.8%
Maryland	40,800,509	34,311,608	23,907,301	-15.9%	-30%	-41.4%	69,225,412	54,404,877	24,075,889	-21.4%	-55.7%	-65.2%
Massachusetts	33,017,944	29,663,657	34,824,614	-10.2%	17%	5.5%	79,891,170	61,493,120	46,732,087	-23.0%	-24.0%	-41.5%
Michigan	59,663,714	70,330,611	67,393,849	17.9%	-4%	13.0%	116,346,778	112,531,504	85,823,571	-3.3%	-23.7%	-26.2%
Minnesota	36,211,800	39,662,945	63,506,431	9.5%	60%	75.4%	91,792,279	80,013,211	85,513,239	-12.8%	6.9%	-6.8%
Mississippi	29,518,445	24,368,606	27,406,043	-17.4%	12%	-7.2%	52,852,286	41,535,122	38,723,947	-21.4%	-6.8%	-26.7%
Missouri	43,464,486	42,806,381	51,783,296	-1.5%	21%	19.1%	83,400,122	70,714,559	75,712,257	-15.2%	7.1%	-9.2%
Montana	6,225,503	6,129,348	6,811,347	-1.5%	11%	9.4%	12,483,078	10,656,241	11,076,557	-14.6%	3.9%	-11.3%
Nebraska	12,010,430	11,975,069	10,877,981	-0.3%	-9%	-9.4%	35,715,775	29,822,049	30,532,782	-16.5%	2.4%	-14.5%
Nevada	19,998,962	17,394,261	14,324,042	-13.0%	-18%	-28.4%	34,596,636	28,831,402	16,668,452	-16.7%	-42.2%	-51.8%
New Hampshire	3,426,748	3,674,421	4,219,220	7.2%	15%	23.1%	12,304,136	9,696,407	7,406,916	-21.2%	-23.6%	-39.8%
New Jersey	51,966,341	48,724,897	84,076,739	-6.2%	73%	61.8%	104,892,287	86,801,121	91,190,304	-17.2%	5.1%	-13.1%
New Mexico	20,524,063	20,005,956	15,890,727	-2.5%	-21%	-22.6%	30,178,666	27,671,505	16,843,095	-8.3%	-39.1%	-44.2%
New York	120,954,848	121,880,235	121,285,894	0.8%	0%	0.3%	251,159,504	215,536,888	152,403,601	-14.2%	-29.3%	-39.3%
North Carolina	69,037,479	71,811,353	57,375,717	4.0%	-20%	-16.9%	128,223,378	112,105,687	69,581,656	-12.6%	-37.9%	-45.7%
North Dakota	4,593,071	5,284,730	5,798,484	15.1%	10%	26.2%	14,782,605	12,886,315	13,250,480	-12.8%	2.8%	-10.4%
Ohio	67,657,980	64,110,378	67,606,690	-5.2%	5%	-0.1%	146,555,412	121,515,729	110,332,995	-17.1%	-9.2%	-24.7%
Oklahoma	28,849,304	31,740,812	27,921,880	10.0%	-12%	-3.2%	55,181,025	53,506,395	51,750,513	-3.0%	-3.3%	-6.2%
Oregon	21,639,829	20,621,887	20,805,636	-4.7%	1%	-3.9%	42,896,932	35,873,964	22,134,607	-16.4%	-38.3%	-48.4%
Pennsylvania	65,945,247	61,602,066	58,209,297	-6.6%	-6%	-11.7%	158,984,015	127,356,771	90,620,823	-19.9%	-28.8%	-43.0%
Rhode Island	5,393,473	4,647,777	4,612,920	-13.8%	-1%	-14.5%	12,051,022	9,331,526	6,041,443	-22.6%	-35.3%	-49.9%
South Carolina	41,400,252	39,023,365	36,635,174	-5.7%	-6%	-11.5%	72,789,940	62,467,224	50,769,025	-14.2%	-18.7%	-30.3%
South Dakota	4,311,955	4,989,697	5,127,509	15.7%	3%	18.9%	15,706,138	13,796,717	14,413,902	-12.2%	4.5%	-8.2%
Tennessee	55,829,391	51,148,679	49,090,062	-8.4%	-4%	-12.1%	93,628,389	78,798,230	70,162,088	-15.8%	-11.0%	-25.1%
Texas	302,800,949	259,541,203	219,903,424	-14.3%	-15%	-27.4%	520,782,561	416,009,547	337,207,943	-20.1%	-18.9%	-35.2%
Utah	13,222,986	15,718,784	12,956,146	18.9%	-1%	-2.0%	51,098,144	44,351,195	43,379,911	-13.2%	-2.2%	-15.1%
Vermont	3,860,629	4,436,178	4,480,320	14.9%	1%	16.1%	7,005,593	6,572,239	5,883,576	-6.2%	-10.5%	-16.0%
Virginia	53,484,564	49,780,742	53,173,542	-6.9%	7%	-0.6%	105,501,757	86,726,914	60,318,715	-17.8%	-30.4%	-42.8%
Washington	30,473,610	34,274,537	42,167,090	12.5%	23%	38.4%	78,135,284	67,533,777	46,121,697	-13.6%	-31.7%	-41.0%
West Virginia	21,756,798	22,414,579	18,102,065	3.0%	-19%	-16.8%	27,086,796	26,283,792	20,634,758	-3.0%	-21.5%	-23.8%
Wisconsin	30,942,020	31,674,354	31,359,928	2.4%	-1%	1.4%	77,657,465	65,979,192	53,460,927	-15.0%	-19.0%	-31.2%
Wyoming	2,636,564	3,375,387	3,991,424	28.0%	18%	51.4%	7,345,543	6,698,338	7,840,132	-8.8%	17.0%	6.7%
TOTAL	2,222,107,348	2,120,318,745	2,119,217,473	-4.6%	-0.1%	-4.6%	4,422,952,476	3,709,414,402	2,990,571,326	-16.1%	-19.4%	-32.4%

1 Breakfast and lunches served during the 2018–2019 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.

2 Breakfasts and lunches served during the 2019–2020 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

3 Breakfasts and lunches served during the 2020–2021 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

Table 3: Average Daily Student Participation In School Breakfast by Fee Type, School Years 2018–2019¹, 2019–2020², 2020–2021³

State	Students Receiving a Free Breakfast ⁴						Students Receiving a Reduced-Price Breakfast						Students Receiving a Paid Breakfast					
	School Year 2018–2019	%	School Year 2019–2020	%	School Year 2020–2021	%	School Year 2018–2019	%	School Year 2019–2020	%	School Year 2020–2021	%	School Year 2018–2019	%	School Year 2019–2020	%	School Year 2020–2021	%
Alabama	217,895	80.1%	206,449	82.4%	274,883	99.9%	12,065	4%	10,332	4%	56	0.0%	42,026	15%	33,685	13%	116	0.0%
Alaska	21,156	80.2%	22,949	84.8%	23,877	99.7%	1,040	4%	780	3%	8	0.0%	4,173	16%	3,335	12%	76	0.3%
Arizona	245,036	78.4%	263,086	83.9%	292,638	99.7%	20,351	7%	14,778	5%	191	0.1%	47,253	15%	35,685	11%	763	0.3%
Arkansas	142,539	73.8%	156,349	78.7%	184,105	100.0%	16,737	9%	12,472	6%	2	0.0%	33,849	18%	29,731	15%	7	0.0%
California	1,369,669	80.7%	1,458,747	86.5%	1,667,180	99.8%	118,794	7%	76,636	5%	755	0.0%	208,472	12%	151,222	9%	2,345	0.1%
Colorado	110,848	65.8%	121,679	73.4%	160,769	99.9%	18,600	11%	14,511	9%	39	0.0%	39,103	23%	29,645	18%	131	0.1%
Connecticut	98,007	86.4%	99,136	89.2%	103,310	99.9%	3,569	3%	2,152	2%	8	0.0%	11,917	11%	9,872	9%	65	0.1%
Delaware	39,794	74.2%	41,862	78.0%	48,031	100.0%	1,148	2%	1,047	2%	4	0.0%	12,688	24%	10,755	20%	14	0.0%
District of Columbia	29,229	82.8%	23,866	83.3%	10,939	98.9%	346	1%	266	1%	5	0.0%	5,746	16%	4,536	16%	120	1.1%
Florida	722,040	83.3%	678,643	86.0%	725,495	99.0%	39,998	5%	29,642	4%	1,185	0.2%	104,255	12%	80,693	10%	6,246	0.9%
Georgia	512,636	78.9%	500,893	82.1%	594,808	99.9%	35,842	6%	27,141	4%	73	0.0%	101,608	16%	82,099	13%	643	0.1%
Hawaii	22,822	70.5%	21,004	75.0%	22,068	98.0%	2,654	8%	1,882	7%	111	0.5%	6,876	21%	5,123	18%	331	1.5%
Idaho	44,084	62.2%	53,423	72.8%	58,759	99.3%	6,729	9%	5,030	7%	126	0.2%	20,090	28%	14,885	20%	267	0.5%
Illinois	402,551	91.4%	430,972	93.1%	480,349	99.9%	7,131	2%	5,757	1%	35	0.0%	30,620	7%	26,204	6%	496	0.1%
Indiana	210,747	74.5%	243,947	82.3%	265,297	99.5%	20,330	7%	13,492	5%	246	0.1%	51,906	18%	38,908	13%	1,079	0.4%
Iowa	76,146	73.3%	95,250	82.5%	119,218	99.2%	6,059	6%	4,340	4%	180	0.1%	21,629	21%	15,822	14%	796	0.7%
Kansas	86,299	69.8%	111,110	78.3%	140,213	99.9%	12,747	10%	10,259	7%	25	0.0%	24,639	20%	20,513	14%	56	0.0%
Kentucky	289,789	88.8%	310,116	91.9%	297,717	99.9%	2,984	1%	2,059	1%	7	0.0%	33,434	10%	25,300	7%	211	0.1%
Louisiana	267,332	90.6%	270,213	93.3%	271,085	99.9%	3,813	1%	2,454	1%	23	0.0%	23,786	8%	17,035	6%	177	0.1%
Maine	33,083	63.5%	46,116	75.2%	46,784	99.9%	4,090	8%	3,124	5%	11	0.0%	14,910	29%	12,092	20%	55	0.1%
Maryland	166,909	63.7%	163,969	69.2%	153,453	100.0%	21,595	8%	16,730	7%	2	0.0%	73,452	28%	56,326	24%	40	0.0%
Massachusetts	181,594	85.2%	172,356	88.3%	224,675	99.9%	5,642	3%	3,762	2%	23	0.0%	25,892	12%	19,121	10%	91	0.0%
Michigan	334,787	83.4%	433,168	89.6%	452,716	99.9%	14,362	4%	10,401	2%	74	0.0%	52,092	13%	39,809	8%	438	0.1%
Minnesota	129,476	54.1%	196,052	69.3%	418,729	99.7%	26,203	11%	20,786	7%	282	0.1%	83,758	35%	66,204	23%	900	0.2%
Mississippi	171,113	86.5%	149,855	88.2%	183,247	99.8%	9,380	5%	6,577	4%	101	0.1%	17,247	9%	13,386	8%	240	0.1%
Missouri	203,876	70.3%	235,180	78.0%	342,709	99.2%	20,805	7%	15,880	5%	419	0.1%	65,327	23%	50,437	17%	2,386	0.7%
Montana	27,411	69.5%	31,373	77.2%	42,147	97.7%	2,382	6%	1,828	4%	132	0.3%	9,637	24%	7,448	18%	861	2.0%
Nebraska	49,766	61.1%	63,823	73.1%	73,288	99.4%	8,180	10%	6,140	7%	94	0.1%	23,481	29%	17,363	20%	367	0.5%
Nevada	103,250	78.0%	104,572	88.9%	94,828	100.0%	8,693	7%	2,402	2%	1	0.0%	20,499	15%	10,621	9%	31	0.0%
New Hampshire	13,915	62.7%	18,593	73.3%	27,169	99.4%	1,478	7%	1,574	6%	24	0.1%	6,797	31%	5,201	21%	129	0.5%
New Jersey	244,808	75.1%	255,176	79.9%	526,906	99.9%	18,149	6%	13,872	4%	53	0.0%	63,023	19%	50,470	16%	445	0.1%
New Mexico	118,050	83.1%	122,240	86.7%	109,948	99.9%	3,727	3%	2,466	2%	8	0.0%	20,338	14%	16,289	12%	77	0.1%
New York	716,269	90.9%	748,910	93.3%	788,701	99.8%	12,511	2%	8,893	1%	133	0.0%	59,343	8%	45,242	6%	1,445	0.2%
North Carolina	364,055	80.7%	413,729	85.2%	374,627	99.9%	19,833	4%	16,285	3%	28	0.0%	67,150	15%	55,430	11%	193	0.1%
North Dakota	14,824	50.8%	24,354	68.6%	36,793	99.8%	2,673	9%	1,913	5%	4	0.0%	11,695	40%	9,234	26%	57	0.2%
Ohio	345,574	77.2%	358,182	81.5%	444,748	99.5%	19,851	4%	15,199	3%	289	0.1%	82,115	18%	65,892	15%	2,164	0.5%
Oklahoma	169,808	73.9%	193,410	80.6%	200,133	99.9%	15,973	7%	12,122	5%	71	0.0%	43,921	19%	34,392	14%	190	0.1%
Oregon	101,599	70.1%	112,255	77.5%	139,059	99.8%	9,863	7%	6,847	5%	47	0.0%	33,413	23%	25,805	18%	184	0.1%
Pennsylvania	351,643	84.4%	346,181	87.2%	366,490	99.6%	10,725	3%	7,793	2%	128	0.0%	54,370	13%	43,111	11%	1,233	0.3%
Rhode Island	26,166	76.2%	25,412	82.7%	29,291	99.8%	1,761	5%	1,140	4%	17	0.1%	6,395	19%	4,165	14%	47	0.2%
South Carolina	218,099	81.4%	219,259	84.5%	236,921	100.0%	9,552	4%	7,153	3%	13	0.0%	40,147	15%	33,163	13%	40	0.0%
South Dakota	20,275	68.7%	28,544	79.6%	34,189	97.4%	2,128	7%	1,696	5%	143	0.4%	7,121	24%	5,620	16%	775	2.2%
Tennessee	300,084	78.7%	297,646	82.2%	334,464	99.8%	16,295	4%	12,532	3%	36	0.0%	64,950	17%	51,713	14%	798	0.2%
Texas	1,632,122	84.5%	1,501,843	88.1%	1,359,069	96.9%	74,327	4%	49,628	3%	8,900	0.6%	225,174	12%	153,817	9%	34,836	2.5%
Utah	55,148	64.5%	84,774	78.7%	82,721	98.8%	8,349	10%	6,049	6%	273	0.3%	21,975	26%	16,829	16%	752	0.9%
Vermont	15,470	61.3%	23,374	76.3%	29,219	99.8%	2,326	9%	1,668	5%	13	0.0%	7,427	29%	5,610	18%	40	0.1%
Virginia	259,671	72.5%	273,708	78.2%	355,729	100.0%	23,151	6%	16,643	5%	1	0.0%	75,130	21%	59,456	17%	140	0.0%
Washington	145,865	72.2%	198,224	81.9%	279,348	99.9%	20,445	10%	14,828	6%	20	0.0%	35,780	18%	29,072	12%	268	0.1%
West Virginia	119,048	81.3%	130,809	85.9%	121,778	99.9%	1,635	1%	1,333	1%	6	0.0%	25,769	18%	20,070	13%	66	0.1%
Wisconsin	143,723	73.2%	166,954	80.0%	198,431	99.8%	10,029	5%	7,940	4%	67	0.0%	42,476	22%	33,917	16%	380	0.2%
Wyoming	9,667	56.7%	17,194	73.0%	25,697	99.5%	2,158	13%	1,718	7%	40	0.2%	5,239	31%	4,653	20%	98	0.4%
TOTAL	11,695,767	79.9%	12,266,927	84.6%	13,874,746	99.4%	739,208	5%	531,947	4%	14,534	0.1%	2,210,113	15%	1,697,004	12%	63,705	0.5%

1 Average Daily Participation during the 2018–2019 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.

2 Average Daily Participation during the 2019–2020 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

3 Average Daily Participation during the 2020–2021 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

4 Breakfasts served through the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option during the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years are included in the free average daily participation.

Table 4: Average Daily Student Participation In School Lunch by Fee Type, School Years 2018–2019¹, 2019–2020², 2020–2021³

State	Students Receiving a Free Lunch ⁴						Students Receiving a Reduced-Price Lunch						Students Receiving a Paid Lunch					
	School Year 2018–2019	%	School Year 2019–2020	%	School Year 2020–2021	%	School Year 2018–2019	%	School Year 2019–2020	%	School Year 2020–2021	%	School Year 2018–2019	%	School Year 2019–2020	%	School Year 2020–2021	%
Alabama	354,226	72.4%	293,657	72.0%	396,692	99.8%	25,459	5.2%	21,557	5.3%	145	0.0%	109,658	22.4%	92,672	22.7%	643	0.2%
Alaska	37,404	73.4%	33,252	74.5%	31,534	99.5%	2,500	4.9%	2,004	4.5%	15	0.0%	11,087	21.7%	9,390	21.0%	152	0.5%
Arizona	428,447	70.8%	380,604	72.5%	445,534	99.4%	43,465	7.2%	34,905	6.7%	506	0.1%	133,346	22.0%	109,252	20.8%	2,042	0.5%
Arkansas	210,682	69.2%	194,588	71.3%	250,046	99.9%	26,832	8.8%	20,898	7.7%	54	0.0%	67,082	22.0%	57,369	21.0%	241	0.1%
California	2,365,895	76.4%	2,089,730	79.1%	1,768,293	99.6%	225,509	7.3%	161,098	6.1%	1,219	0.1%	504,927	16.3%	392,502	14.8%	5,007	0.3%
Colorado	186,943	53.9%	164,098	55.5%	260,016	99.7%	35,320	10.2%	29,606	10.0%	142	0.1%	124,574	35.9%	102,170	34.5%	540	0.2%
Connecticut	182,958	66.2%	158,606	69.5%	161,698	99.6%	13,424	4.9%	8,338	3.7%	67	0.0%	79,855	28.9%	61,122	26.8%	642	0.4%
Delaware	62,733	65.8%	58,215	67.0%	53,586	99.9%	2,497	2.6%	2,378	2.7%	7	0.0%	30,165	31.6%	26,292	30.3%	62	0.1%
District of Columbia	42,177	82.1%	33,668	81.3%	11,441	98.8%	678	1.3%	534	1.3%	6	0.1%	8,542	16.6%	7,207	17.4%	131	1.1%
Florida	1,388,504	81.5%	1,112,103	81.3%	1,251,774	98.4%	83,863	4.9%	66,530	4.9%	3,098	0.2%	231,282	13.6%	189,883	13.9%	17,683	1.4%
Georgia	823,847	71.6%	703,646	72.2%	836,729	99.9%	65,470	5.7%	53,149	5.5%	100	0.0%	260,854	22.7%	217,502	22.3%	788	0.1%
Hawaii	55,127	55.0%	44,965	57.0%	35,213	89.2%	8,976	9.0%	6,614	8.4%	547	1.4%	36,131	36.0%	27,262	34.6%	3,733	9.5%
Idaho	76,100	52.2%	73,738	56.7%	123,944	99.0%	15,114	10.4%	12,214	9.4%	283	0.2%	54,570	37.4%	44,206	34.0%	962	0.8%
Illinois	771,039	77.2%	683,089	78.8%	614,791	99.5%	24,514	2.5%	19,721	2.3%	159	0.0%	202,945	20.3%	164,278	18.9%	3,058	0.5%
Indiana	397,058	56.6%	370,013	61.0%	525,643	99.0%	52,343	7.5%	38,101	6.3%	782	0.1%	252,667	36.0%	198,884	32.8%	4,589	0.9%
Iowa	169,912	47.4%	165,271	53.2%	300,571	97.4%	20,813	5.8%	15,874	5.1%	858	0.3%	167,665	46.8%	129,792	41.7%	7,282	2.4%
Kansas	156,070	49.0%	151,319	53.8%	266,547	99.4%	31,455	9.9%	25,359	9.0%	125	0.0%	130,733	41.1%	104,838	37.2%	1,427	0.5%
Kentucky	427,859	84.3%	410,861	87.0%	349,949	99.8%	5,943	1.2%	4,327	0.9%	14	0.0%	73,742	14.5%	56,946	12.1%	520	0.1%
Louisiana	445,499	82.8%	399,885	85.0%	412,566	99.8%	9,913	1.8%	6,838	1.5%	59	0.0%	82,716	15.4%	63,638	13.5%	574	0.1%
Maine	50,837	55.3%	54,593	62.1%	65,665	99.8%	6,547	7.1%	5,293	6.0%	25	0.0%	34,506	37.6%	28,040	31.9%	132	0.2%
Maryland	268,765	62.7%	217,956	62.9%	153,314	99.9%	33,627	7.8%	27,926	8.1%	13	0.0%	126,230	29.5%	100,870	29.1%	121	0.1%
Massachusetts	319,995	62.7%	262,786	64.9%	306,892	99.8%	20,701	4.1%	14,782	3.7%	75	0.0%	170,007	33.3%	127,085	31.4%	552	0.2%
Michigan	554,078	70.8%	593,186	76.7%	587,759	99.6%	34,751	4.4%	26,902	3.5%	208	0.0%	193,305	24.7%	153,767	19.9%	2,223	0.4%
Minnesota	223,735	38.8%	241,517	45.8%	558,363	99.0%	54,302	9.4%	45,575	8.6%	702	0.1%	299,318	51.8%	240,448	45.6%	4,737	0.8%
Mississippi	276,569	79.3%	221,712	79.6%	258,697	99.6%	20,206	5.8%	15,063	5.4%	238	0.1%	52,168	15.0%	41,930	15.0%	906	0.3%
Missouri	316,523	58.3%	293,284	61.7%	499,425	98.2%	38,823	7.2%	31,306	6.6%	957	0.2%	187,342	34.5%	150,654	31.7%	8,449	1.7%
Montana	42,877	55.9%	40,609	60.0%	66,781	94.9%	5,311	6.9%	4,245	6.3%	382	0.5%	28,477	37.1%	22,863	33.8%	3,225	4.6%
Nebraska	107,223	45.9%	102,149	50.3%	205,520	98.8%	20,788	8.9%	16,908	8.3%	340	0.2%	105,418	45.2%	84,151	41.4%	2,191	1.1%
Nevada	166,983	74.4%	152,727	80.1%	110,209	99.9%	17,019	7.6%	7,540	4.0%	12	0.0%	40,393	18.0%	30,503	16.0%	70	0.1%
New Hampshire	29,653	38.7%	26,915	42.5%	47,763	98.8%	4,387	5.7%	3,921	6.2%	39	0.1%	42,596	55.6%	32,473	51.3%	559	1.2%
New Jersey	397,574	60.4%	358,099	63.8%	588,914	99.9%	41,201	6.3%	31,896	5.7%	99	0.0%	218,994	33.3%	171,282	30.5%	644	0.1%
New Mexico	168,485	81.8%	158,792	82.9%	116,532	99.9%	6,464	3.1%	4,721	2.5%	12	0.0%	31,057	15.1%	28,088	14.7%	80	0.1%
New York	1,354,239	81.6%	1,215,479	84.2%	1,016,319	99.5%	32,904	2.0%	23,725	1.6%	321	0.0%	271,566	16.4%	204,822	14.2%	4,414	0.4%
North Carolina	621,830	76.0%	566,515	77.8%	451,890	99.9%	36,468	4.5%	31,194	4.3%	32	0.0%	159,456	19.5%	130,743	17.9%	213	0.0%
North Dakota	27,326	30.9%	32,266	39.7%	83,517	99.9%	5,941	6.7%	4,429	5.4%	8	0.0%	55,228	62.4%	44,647	54.9%	115	0.1%
Ohio	583,124	62.2%	515,401	64.3%	718,763	98.8%	49,886	5.3%	39,038	4.9%	825	0.1%	305,447	32.5%	246,522	30.8%	7,663	1.1%
Oklahoma	254,318	66.2%	267,274	69.9%	368,471	99.6%	29,003	7.6%	25,479	6.7%	159	0.0%	100,765	26.2%	89,585	23.4%	1,161	0.3%
Oregon	180,954	64.7%	160,145	66.6%	148,150	99.8%	19,449	7.0%	14,804	6.2%	55	0.0%	79,388	28.4%	65,544	27.3%	183	0.1%
Pennsylvania	654,138	66.7%	554,164	68.7%	567,324	98.8%	32,284	3.3%	24,170	3.0%	443	0.1%	294,752	30.0%	228,282	28.3%	6,181	1.1%
Rhode Island	46,763	62.4%	39,064	65.4%	38,517	99.6%	4,725	6.3%	3,320	5.6%	28	0.1%	23,400	31.2%	17,320	29.0%	108	0.3%
South Carolina	343,115	74.0%	304,340	75.0%	329,697	99.9%	19,406	4.2%	15,488	3.8%	30	0.0%	100,943	21.8%	86,043	21.2%	137	0.0%
South Dakota	40,859	40.6%	43,771	47.3%	89,811	93.0%	7,287	7.2%	5,982	6.5%	687	0.7%	52,433	52.1%	42,729	46.2%	6,122	6.3%
Tennessee	455,757	72.6%	399,153	74.0%	478,960	99.7%	29,169	4.6%	23,053	4.3%	71	0.0%	142,675	22.7%	117,376	21.8%	1,414	0.3%
Texas	2,534,857	76.9%	2,109,606	78.7%	2,056,721	94.7%	147,875	4.5%	109,428	4.1%	18,161	0.8%	612,251	18.6%	460,867	17.2%	97,385	4.5%
Utah	128,075	40.4%	137,749	47.8%	276,373	98.1%	28,941	9.1%	22,055	7.7%	939	0.3%	159,997	50.5%	128,265	44.5%	4,448	1.6%
Vermont	21,575	48.9%	25,575	59.4%	38,397	99.6%	3,700	8.4%	2,753	6.4%	11	0.0%	18,840	42.7%	14,723	34.2%	132	0.3%
Virginia	409,394	60.1%	362,980	62.8%	401,871	100.0%	44,132	6.5%	33,528	5.8%	1	0.0%	228,177	33.5%	181,508	31.4%	139	0.0%
Washington	303,079	60.2%	288,863	64.4%	305,544	99.7%	46,374	9.2%	36,389	8.1%	89	0.0%	153,816	30.6%	123,359	27.5%	743	0.2%
West Virginia	143,015	79.5%	147,065	83.0%	139,032	99.9%	2,229	1.2%	1,883	1.1%	8	0.0%	34,548	19.2%	28,325	16.0%	132	0.1%
Wisconsin	267,093	55.1%	251,584	59.0%	340,729	98.6%	25,747	5.3%	21,084	4.9%	368	0.1%	192,015	39.6%	153,844	36.1%	4,493	1.3%
Wyoming	18,365	40.8%	21,686	50.4%	49,869	99.1%	5,251	11.7%	4,073	9.5%	98	0.2%	21,449	47.6%	17,252	40.1%	377	0.7%
TOTAL	19,893,650	69.7%	17,688,314	72.1%	19,562,357	98.8%	1,568,987	5.5%	1,207,998	4.9%	33,625	0.2%	7,099,099	25%	5,649,115	23%	209,524	1.1%

1 Average Daily Participation during the 2018–2019 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.

2 Average Daily Participation during the 2019–school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

3 Average Daily Participation during the 2020–2021 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

4 Lunches served through the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option during the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years are included in the free average daily participation.

Table 5: Participation in Breakfast Compared to Lunch, School Years 2018–2019¹, 2019–2020², and 2020–2021³

State	School Year 2018–2019			School Year 2019–2020			School Year 2020–2021		
	Total Breakfast Students	Total Lunch Students	Total Students in Breakfast per 100 in Lunch	Total Breakfast Students	Total Lunch Students	Total Students in Breakfast per 100 in Lunch	Total Breakfast Students	Total Lunch Students	Total Students in Breakfast per 100 in Lunch
Alabama	271,986	489,344	55.6	250,466	407,886	61.4	275,056	397,480	69.2
Alaska	26,369	50,991	51.7	27,064	44,646	60.6	23,961	31,700	75.6
Arizona	312,640	605,257	51.7	313,548	524,761	59.8	293,592	448,082	65.5
Arkansas	193,125	304,596	63.4	198,551	272,856	72.8	184,209	250,341	73.6
California	1,696,935	3,096,331	54.8	1,686,605	2,643,330	63.8	1,670,281	1,774,518	94.1
Colorado	168,551	346,838	48.6	165,835	295,874	56.0	160,939	260,699	61.7
Connecticut	113,493	276,237	41.1	111,159	228,066	48.7	103,383	162,407	63.7
Delaware	53,630	95,395	56.2	53,664	86,885	61.8	48,050	53,655	89.6
District of Columbia	35,321	51,396	68.7	28,667	41,410	69.2	11,064	11,578	95.6
Florida	866,293	1,703,648	50.8	788,979	1,368,516	57.7	732,926	1,272,556	57.6
Georgia	650,086	1,150,170	56.5	610,132	974,297	62.6	595,524	837,617	71.1
Hawaii	32,352	100,234	32.3	28,009	78,841	35.5	22,510	39,493	57.0
Idaho	70,903	145,784	48.6	73,337	130,158	56.3	59,151	125,189	47.2
Illinois	440,302	998,498	44.1	462,933	867,088	53.4	480,880	618,009	77.8
Indiana	282,983	702,068	40.3	296,347	606,997	48.8	266,622	531,015	50.2
Iowa	103,834	358,390	29.0	115,413	310,936	37.1	120,194	308,710	38.9
Kansas	123,685	318,259	38.9	141,883	281,516	50.4	140,294	268,099	52.3
Kentucky	326,207	507,544	64.3	337,475	472,134	71.5	297,934	350,483	85.0
Louisiana	294,931	538,127	54.8	289,701	470,360	61.6	271,285	413,199	65.7
Maine	52,083	91,891	56.7	61,333	87,927	69.8	46,850	65,822	71.2
Maryland	261,956	428,622	61.1	237,024	346,751	68.4	153,495	153,448	100.0
Massachusetts	213,128	510,703	41.7	195,238	404,654	48.2	224,790	307,519	73.1
Michigan	401,241	782,133	51.3	483,378	773,856	62.5	453,227	590,191	76.8
Minnesota	239,437	577,355	41.5	283,042	527,540	53.7	419,912	563,803	74.5
Mississippi	197,740	348,944	56.7	169,818	278,704	60.9	183,588	259,841	70.7
Missouri	290,008	542,689	53.4	301,497	475,244	63.4	345,514	508,832	67.9
Montana	39,430	76,665	51.4	40,649	67,717	60.0	43,140	70,388	61.3
Nebraska	81,427	233,429	34.9	87,327	203,208	43.0	73,749	208,051	35.4
Nevada	132,442	224,396	59.0	117,595	190,770	61.6	94,860	110,291	86.0
New Hampshire	22,190	76,635	29.0	25,368	63,309	40.1	27,322	48,361	56.5
New Jersey	325,980	657,768	49.6	319,518	561,276	56.9	527,404	589,658	89.4
New Mexico	142,115	206,006	69.0	140,994	191,601	73.6	110,033	116,624	94.3
New York	788,123	1,658,709	47.5	803,045	1,444,026	55.6	790,279	1,021,054	77.4
North Carolina	451,038	817,755	55.2	485,445	728,452	66.6	374,848	452,135	82.9
North Dakota	29,192	88,494	33.0	35,501	81,341	43.6	36,853	83,640	44.1
Ohio	447,540	938,057	47.7	439,272	800,961	54.8	447,201	727,251	61.5
Oklahoma	229,702	384,085	59.8	239,924	382,338	62.8	200,394	369,791	54.2
Oregon	144,875	279,791	51.8	144,907	240,493	60.3	139,290	148,387	93.9
Pennsylvania	416,738	981,174	42.5	397,084	806,616	49.2	367,851	573,948	64.1
Rhode Island	34,322	74,888	45.8	30,717	59,703	51.4	29,355	38,653	75.9
South Carolina	267,798	463,465	57.8	259,575	405,872	64.0	236,974	329,864	71.8
South Dakota	29,524	100,579	29.4	35,860	92,483	38.8	35,107	96,620	36.3
Tennessee	381,329	627,601	60.8	361,890	539,582	67.1	335,297	480,445	69.8
Texas	1,931,623	3,294,983	58.6	1,705,288	2,679,902	63.6	1,402,804	2,172,268	64.6
Utah	85,472	317,013	27.0	107,652	288,069	37.4	83,746	281,760	29.7
Vermont	25,223	44,115	57.2	30,651	43,052	71.2	29,272	38,541	76.0
Virginia	357,952	681,703	52.5	349,806	578,017	60.5	355,870	402,012	88.5
Washington	202,090	503,270	40.2	242,123	448,611	54.0	279,636	306,376	91.3
West Virginia	146,452	179,792	81.5	152,213	177,272	85.9	121,850	139,172	87.6
Wisconsin	196,228	484,856	40.5	208,812	426,512	49.0	198,878	345,590	57.5
Wyoming	17,064	45,065	37.9	23,565	43,012	54.8	25,834	50,344	51.3
TOTAL	14,645,088	28,561,737	51.3	14,495,878	24,545,427	59.1	13,953,079	19,805,506	70.5

¹ Average Daily Participation during the 2018–2019 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.

² Average Daily Participation during the 2019–2020 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

³ Average Daily Participation during the 2020–2021 school year includes participation in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Seamless Summer Option.

Table 6: Total Breakfasts¹ and Lunches² Served by Program in School Year 2019–2020 and 2020–2021³

State	School Year 2019–2020						School Year 2020–2021					
	Breakfast			Lunch			Breakfast			Lunch		
	SFSP	SBP	Total	SFSP	NSLP	Total	SFSP	SBP	Total	SFSP	NSLP	Total
Alabama	4,543,314	30,836,698	35,380,012	5,038,073	54,980,420	60,018,493	28,111,006	12,414,172	40,525,178	41,345,302	17,142,017	58,487,319
Alaska	1,250,288	2,795,494	4,045,782	1,312,172	5,495,089	6,807,261	3,485,430	202,801	3,688,231	4,592,822	240,589	4,833,411
Arizona	3,618,639	40,264,046	43,882,685	3,675,360	72,643,858	76,319,218	22,117,591	21,004,515	43,122,106	37,098,264	28,069,043	65,167,307
Arkansas	278,324	28,006,014	28,284,338	338,606	41,079,159	41,417,765	34,956	27,950,615	27,985,571	115,293	37,884,866	38,000,159
California	12,756,936	232,970,409	245,727,345	13,670,849	389,276,055	402,946,904	38,885,997	216,046,607	254,932,604	40,304,953	230,201,063	270,506,016
Colorado	4,385,020	18,097,035	22,482,055	4,555,111	39,615,083	44,170,194	23,808,737	101,751	23,910,488	38,688,584	230,462	38,919,046
Connecticut	2,468,867	14,589,885	17,058,752	2,488,354	33,293,243	35,781,597	9,236,494	6,942,178	16,178,672	11,992,023	13,488,217	25,480,240
Delaware	1,373,457	6,500,089	7,873,546	1,372,741	11,648,415	13,021,156	7,096,126	93,918	7,190,044	7,922,907	118,225	8,041,132
District of Columbia	245,369	4,306,692	4,552,061	246,561	6,388,163	6,634,724	1,290,130	483,073	1,773,203	1,370,049	484,891	1,854,940
Florida	19,931,781	97,891,812	117,823,593	20,257,174	191,657,474	211,914,648	75,655,451	38,070,178	113,725,629	133,077,532	63,977,649	197,055,181
Georgia	1,156,009	83,827,175	84,983,184	1,338,972	140,434,189	141,773,161	2,928,189	83,881,821	86,810,010	2,908,268	118,976,176	121,884,444
Hawaii	16,675	3,898,519	3,915,194	80,977	11,678,663	11,759,640	158,391	3,214,753	3,373,144	208,367	5,682,301	5,890,668
Idaho	2,358,640	7,827,211	10,185,851	2,581,270	16,624,976	19,206,246	4,295,318	4,525,258	8,820,576	8,060,649	10,412,401	18,473,050
Illinois	19,049,776	51,923,923	70,973,699	19,584,000	113,306,574	132,890,574	73,246,295	1,407,218	74,653,513	92,441,396	2,275,096	94,716,492
Indiana	7,003,206	34,491,387	41,494,593	7,021,210	82,651,592	89,672,802	27,535,218	11,578,018	39,113,236	50,839,529	27,608,246	78,447,775
Iowa	5,012,870	12,284,003	17,296,873	5,678,853	42,768,257	48,447,110	17,091,161	1,626,124	18,717,285	44,102,734	3,997,447	48,100,181
Kansas	3,706,695	15,153,912	18,860,607	3,824,261	36,238,230	40,062,491	19,069,685	1,033,408	20,103,093	35,627,159	2,526,042	38,153,201
Kentucky	12,448,938	35,806,501	48,255,439	12,759,135	55,346,898	68,106,033	42,027,782	835,304	42,863,086	49,382,014	1,175,710	50,557,724
Louisiana	6,543,514	34,781,101	41,330,615	6,583,689	61,069,821	67,653,510	37,786,001	1,247,906	39,033,907	57,311,408	2,120,380	59,431,788
Maine	3,160,415	5,627,603	8,788,018	3,171,441	10,137,872	13,309,313	7,031,878	41,227	7,073,105	9,896,774	66,590	9,963,364
Maryland	4,256,002	30,055,606	34,311,608	4,325,706	50,079,171	54,404,877	23,767,857	139,444	23,907,301	23,909,777	166,112	24,075,889
Massachusetts	3,261,915	26,401,742	29,663,657	3,445,993	58,047,127	61,493,120	19,770,095	15,054,519	34,824,614	21,947,085	24,785,002	46,732,087
Michigan	24,556,107	45,774,504	70,330,611	25,003,166	87,528,338	112,531,504	65,567,363	1,826,486	67,393,849	83,377,354	2,446,217	85,823,571
Minnesota	12,959,712	26,703,233	39,662,945	13,326,623	66,686,588	80,013,211	60,536,637	2,969,794	63,506,431	79,208,284	6,304,955	85,513,239
Mississippi	2,974,117	21,394,489	24,368,606	3,336,123	38,198,999	41,535,122	27,172,748	233,295	27,406,043	38,275,508	448,439	38,723,947
Missouri	6,491,088	36,315,293	42,806,381	5,717,871	64,996,688	70,714,559	29,654,702	22,128,594	51,783,296	37,686,926	38,025,331	75,712,257
Montana	1,533,612	4,595,736	6,129,348	1,662,784	8,993,457	10,656,241	6,103,692	707,655	6,811,347	9,784,937	1,291,620	11,076,557
Nebraska	3,018,348	8,956,721	11,975,069	3,288,374	26,533,675	29,822,049	10,633,181	244,800	10,877,981	29,822,721	710,061	30,532,782
Nevada	942,145	16,452,116	17,394,261	954,237	27,877,165	28,831,402	13,354,085	969,957	14,324,042	15,050,125	1,618,327	16,668,452
New Hampshire	178,900	3,495,521	3,674,421	178,669	9,517,738	9,696,407	121,166	4,098,054	4,219,220	277,593	7,129,323	7,406,916
New Jersey	2,769,689	45,955,208	48,724,897	3,168,748	83,632,373	86,801,121	26,467,126	57,609,613	84,076,739	26,440,232	64,750,072	91,190,304
New Mexico	1,279,579	18,726,377	20,005,956	1,430,205	26,241,300	27,671,505	4,407,936	11,482,791	15,890,727	4,620,583	12,222,512	16,843,095
New York	16,253,032	105,627,203	121,880,235	19,225,763	196,311,125	215,536,888	104,464,830	16,821,064	121,285,894	130,393,564	22,010,037	152,403,601
North Carolina	18,708,662	53,102,691	71,811,353	18,899,723	93,205,964	112,105,687	56,679,449	696,268	57,375,717	68,602,354	979,302	69,581,656
North Dakota	1,731,471	3,553,259	5,284,730	1,799,698	11,086,617	12,886,315	5,733,578	64,906	5,798,484	13,167,919	82,561	13,250,480
Ohio	3,145,146	60,965,232	64,110,378	3,112,609	118,403,120	121,515,729	14,761,349	52,845,341	67,606,690	20,302,966	90,030,029	110,332,995
Oklahoma	1,639,607	30,101,205	31,740,812	1,705,256	51,801,139	53,506,395	14,500,097	13,421,783	27,921,880	24,132,604	27,617,909	51,750,513
Oregon	4,219,321	16,402,566	20,621,887	4,276,794	31,597,170	35,873,964	16,194,384	4,611,252	20,805,636	17,180,284	4,954,323	22,134,607
Pennsylvania	2,234,598	59,367,468	61,602,066	2,674,119	124,682,652	127,356,771	16,416,566	41,792,731	58,209,297	23,854,900	66,765,923	90,620,823
Rhode Island	830,134	3,817,643	4,647,777	801,213	8,530,313	9,331,526	4,551,453	61,467	4,612,920	5,959,439	82,004	6,041,443
South Carolina	2,331,303	36,692,062	39,023,365	2,411,074	60,056,150	62,467,224	10,844,932	25,790,242	36,635,174	14,723,727	36,045,298	50,769,025
South Dakota	344,699	4,644,998	4,989,697	470,484	13,326,233	13,796,717	1,533,624	3,593,885	5,127,509	3,966,987	10,446,915	14,413,902
Tennessee	767,641	50,381,038	51,148,679	1,308,911	77,489,319	78,798,230	1,200,063	47,889,999	49,090,062	1,385,464	68,776,624	70,162,088
Texas	10,921,694	248,619,509	259,541,203	11,688,834	404,320,713	416,009,547	47,613,607	172,289,817	219,903,424	72,758,809	264,449,134	337,207,943
Utah	40,468	15,678,316	15,718,784	40,483	44,310,712	44,351,195	-	12,956,146	12,956,146	-	43,379,911	43,379,911
Vermont	1,730,590	2,705,588	4,436,178	1,743,802	4,828,437	6,572,239	4,418,096	62,224	4,480,320	5,809,906	73,670	5,883,576
Virginia	7,570,879	42,209,863	49,780,742	7,537,045	79,189,869	86,726,914	50,871,124	2,302,418	53,173,542	57,347,317	2,971,398	60,318,715
Washington	10,495,333	23,779,204	34,274,537	10,646,122	56,887,655	67,533,777	39,018,285	3,148,805	42,167,090	42,758,567	3,363,130	46,121,697
West Virginia	4,499,281	17,915,298	22,414,579	4,546,671	21,737,125	26,283,796	17,896,807	205,258	18,102,065	20,367,276	267,842	20,634,758
Wisconsin	5,668,726	26,005,628	31,674,354	5,743,269	60,235,923	65,979,192	22,051,030	9,308,898	31,359,928	31,266,369	22,194,558	53,460,927
Wyoming	1,278,116	2,097,271	3,375,387	1,340,071	5,358,267	6,698,338	3,937,366	54,058	3,991,424	7,711,868	128,264	7,840,132
TOTAL	269,940,648	1,850,378,097	2,120,318,745	281,389,249	3,428,025,153	3,709,414,402	1,161,135,064	958,082,409	2,119,217,473	1,599,377,472	1,391,193,854	2,990,571,326

1 Breakfasts served through the School Breakfast Program (SBP) in the 2019–2020 and the 2020–2021 school years include the breakfasts provided through the Seamless Summer Option (which were provided to all students at no charge) and all the breakfasts provided through the regular school year SBP operations (free, reduced-price and paid breakfasts).

2 Lunches served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in the 2019–2020 and the 2020–2021 school years include the lunches provided through the Seamless Summer Option (which were provided to all students at no charge) and all of the lunches provided through the regular school year NSLP operations (free, reduced-price and paid lunches).

3 The 2018–2019 school year is not included in this table because the COVID-19 child nutrition waivers were not yet available. Breakfasts and lunches were provided to students at school through the regular school year School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.



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