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School Breakfast Scorecard: 2012-2013 School Year

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About FRAC

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition. For more information about FRAC, or to sign up for FRAC's Weekly News Digest, go to: www.frac.org. For information about the School Breakfast Program, go to: <http://bit.ly/sbprogram>

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Executive Summary

For millions of low-income children across the country, the School Breakfast Program provides the opportunity to start the school day with a healthy meal, the health and educational benefits of which cannot be overstated. Children who eat breakfast at school start the day ready to learn—reflected in higher test scores and better classroom behavior—and have improved dietary intakes and reduced levels of food insecurity. In the 2012-2013 school year, participation in the School Breakfast Program continued to grow both in the number of low-income children participating in breakfast and the share of low-income children participating in school breakfast compared to those participating in school lunch. Since the recession, participation in the school meals programs has steadily increased, however the pace of growth has been greater in the School Breakfast Program; the result of extensive efforts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state agencies, school districts, and advocates.

Ensuring that more children—especially low-income children—eat a healthy breakfast each day can have dramatic effects on learning outcomes and the educational environment in schools, leading many states and school districts to take steps to ensure that more children are able to participate. Making breakfast a part of the school day by allowing children to eat breakfast in the classroom at the start of school day has proven to be the most effective strategy for increasing participation in the School Breakfast Program. Expanding opportunities to offer breakfast free of charge to all students has also produced strong gains in many states. In particular, the new Community Eligibility Provision—available in seven states in the 2012-2013 school year, and nationwide in the 2014-2015 school year—allows high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch free to all children and presents an enormous opportunity for growth in the program. As more and more schools and district across the country have implemented these strategies, participation especially among low-income children has continued to grow.

This report analyzes school breakfast participation among low-income children nationally and in each state and the District of Columbia for the 2012-2013 school year and discusses effective federal, state, and local strategies for increasing participation in the program. While states have continued to make strides this school year, there is still much progress to be made in order to meet the urgent need.

Key Findings for School Year 2012-2013:

- This year, 10.8 million low-income children participated in school breakfast on an average day, an increase of nearly 311,000 from the previous school year.
- Nationally, 51.9 low-income children participated in school breakfast for every 100 that participated in school lunch, up from 50.4:100 in the 2011-2012 school year.
- Nine states—Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, West Virginia—and the District of Columbia, produced more than five percent increases over the previous school year.
- The percentage of schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that also participate in the School Breakfast Program slightly increased to 89.8 percent, up from 88.9 percent in the previous school year.
- Widespread implementation of breakfast in the classroom—where students eat breakfast in their classroom at the start of the school day—continued to drive participation in top performing District of Columbia and New Mexico. Both jurisdictions have implemented legislation requiring high-poverty schools to offer breakfast after the bell, either through delivering breakfast to the classroom or offering meals from grab and go carts in the hallway.
- The seven states that had implemented the Community Eligibility Provision—a new federal option allowing high poverty schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students—produced significantly higher growth in low-income student participation (5 percent) than the other states combined (2.5 percent). Community eligibility will be available nationwide in the 2014-2015 school year and already has demonstrated promising potential to increase participation, especially in the School Breakfast Program.

Introduction

The School Breakfast Program supports the health and well-being of the nation's children, providing millions of low-income children with a nutritious morning meal each day. School breakfast participation is linked with increased food security, improved health outcomes, and numerous educational benefits, particularly for low-income children. In the 2012-2013 school year, access to the program continued to grow. As a result, on an average day 10.8 million of the nation's most vulnerable children started the school day ready to learn. This represented an increase of four million additional low-income children each day compared to a decade earlier.

Growth in the program built on proven strategies to increase participation in 2012-2013, such as offering breakfast in the classroom after the school day starts, and capitalized on new opportunities, such as the Community Eligibility Provision, a new option for high-poverty schools to offer school breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. In the 2012-2013 school year, 51.9 low-income children participated in school breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch, an increase from 50.4:100 in the previous school year. The 2011-2012 school year marked an important milestone for the program: it was the first year that more than half of low-income children who ate school lunch also ate school breakfast. The sustained growth in the following school year was the clear result of federal, state, and local efforts to expand access to the program.

Some of the states that reached the most low-income children in the 2011-2012 school year maintained high participation rates in 2012-2013 as a result of effective legislative efforts to expand programs that allow students to eat breakfast in the classroom after the start of the school day. Both the District of Columbia and New Mexico, the top two performing states this year and last, enacted such requirements for high-poverty schools. Additionally, new opportunities to offer meals at no charge to all students through the federal Community Eligibility Provision—available in seven states during the 2012-2013 school year—helped the District of Columbia, Kentucky, and West Virginia maintain high participation rates and produced gains in New York, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan.

The nationwide availability of community eligibility in the 2014-2015 school year, the growing focus on implementing alternative breakfast models like breakfast in the classroom, and the upcoming 2015 reauthorization by Congress of child nutrition programs present significant opportunities to support continued growth in the School Breakfast Program. Despite substantial gains in recent years, half of the nation's low-income children still are missing out on the benefits of school breakfast. Advocates, school districts, and state and federal agencies must continue to build on the momentum gained in recent years to ensure that more low-income children start the school day with a healthy meal.

50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty

This year marks the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's State of the Union address declaring a national "War on Poverty." The speech spurred the passage of a number of Johnson's Great Society initiatives addressing economic opportunity, education, health, and nutrition—including the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, which created the School Breakfast Program. Other legislative hallmarks of Johnson's campaign include the Food Stamp Act of 1964 and the Social Security Act of 1965, which created Medicare and Medicaid. Fifty years later, there is still work to be done to eradicate the poverty, hunger, and health disparities that President Johnson brought to the forefront of American politics. Federal nutrition programs like the School Breakfast Program are important pieces of the safety net that support struggling families and improve health and educational outcomes for low-income children.

Key National Findings

- 10.8 million low-income children participated in the School Breakfast Program on an average day in school year 2012-2013, an increase of more than 310,000 children from the previous year;
- 51.9 low-income children participated in the School Breakfast Program for every 100 low-income children who participated in the National School Lunch Program; in the prior year, the ratio was 50.4:100; and
- 89.8 percent of schools participating in the National School Lunch Program also participated in the School Breakfast Program.

In the 2012-2013 school year, growth in school breakfast participation among low-income children continued, with more children than ever starting their school day with a healthy morning meal. In the past school year, 10.8 million low-income children participated in the School Breakfast Program on an average day—an increase of 310,838 children, or 3 percent, compared to the 2011-2012 school year.

Through advocacy efforts and program and policy improvements, the School Breakfast Program continues to increase the share of children that participate. For example, in 2012-2013, for every 100 children that participate in the National School Lunch Program, 51.9 children participated in the School Breakfast Program, an increase from 50.4 per 100 in the 2011-2012 school year, and up from 42.3:100 a decade ago in the 2002-2003 school year.

How the School Breakfast Program Works

Who Operates the School Breakfast Program:

Any public school, nonprofit private school, or residential child care institution can participate in the School Breakfast Program. The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and in each state through (typically) the state Department of Education or Agriculture.

Who Can Participate in the School Breakfast Program:

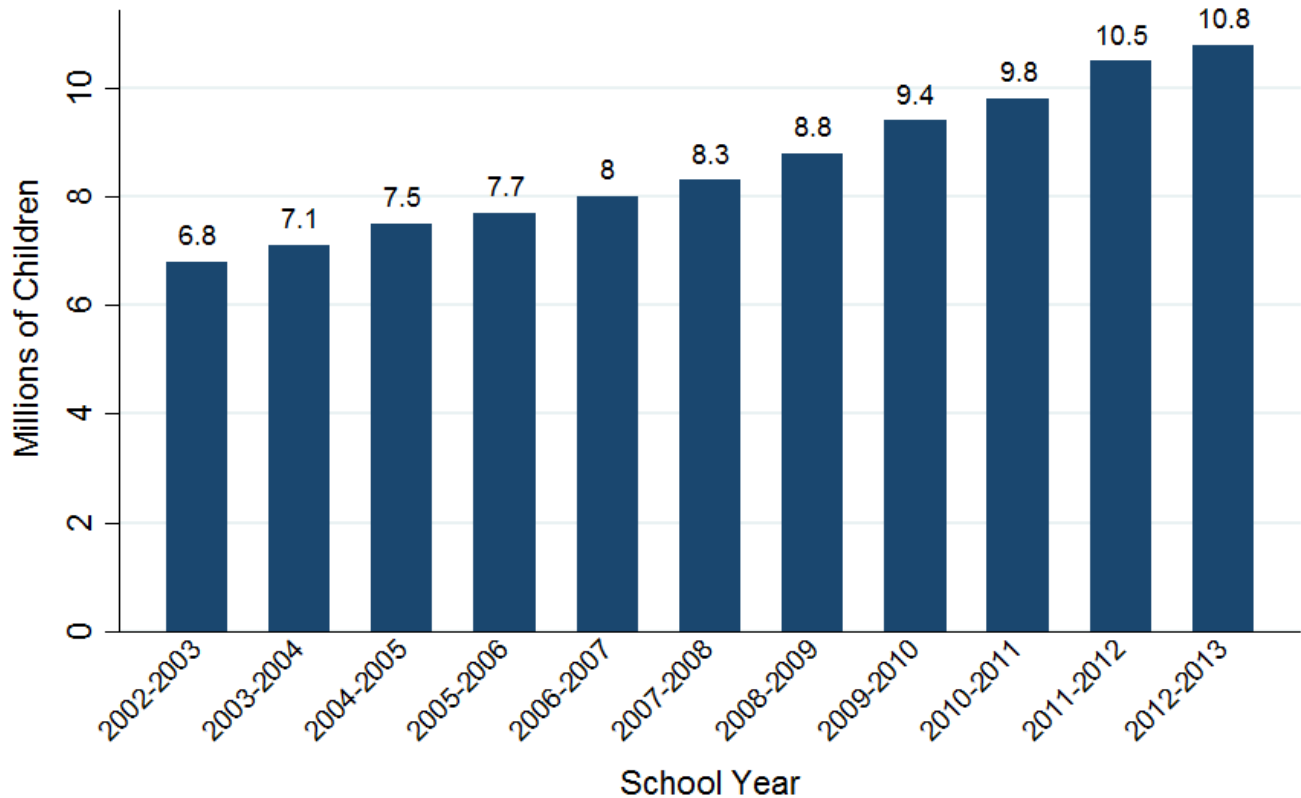
Any student attending a school that offers the program can eat breakfast. What a student pays depends on family income. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for free school meals. Children from families with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of the federal poverty level qualify for reduced-price meals and can be charged no more than 30 cents per breakfast. Children from families with incomes above 185 percent of the federal poverty level pay charges (referred to as “paid meals”) which are set by the school, but schools receive a small federal reimbursement for such children. There are circumstances under which schools offer all children free breakfast, and they are explained later in this report.

Most children are certified for free or reduced-price meals via applications collected by the school district each year. However, children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and 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 SNAP participant households for free school meals through data matching of SNAP records with school enrollment lists, and have the option of directly certifying children in TANF and FDPIR households as well. However, some categorically eligible children are missed through these processes and are still certified by submitting an application.

How the School Breakfast Program Is Funded:

The School Breakfast Program is funded by the federal government through per-meal reimbursements. The amount the school is reimbursed for each meal depends on whether a student qualifies for free, reduced-price, or paid meals. For the 2012-2013 school year, schools received \$1.55 per free breakfast, \$1.25 per reduced-price breakfast, and \$0.27 per paid breakfast. “Severe need” schools qualify for an additional 30 cents 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.

Figure 1. Student Participation in the Free and Reduced-Price School Breakfast Program



Prepared by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
Data Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The share of schools that offer breakfast compared to lunch slightly increased as well to 89.8 percent in the 2012-2013 school year, up from 88.9 percent in the 2011-2012 school year.¹ Over the past decade, there has been strong progress toward the goal of all schools offering breakfast and lunch. Since the 2002-2003 school year, the percentage of schools that offer lunch that also offer breakfast has increased more than 11 percentage points from 78.3 to 89.8 percent. Still, work continues to address this disparity between school lunch and breakfast programs. Advocates and state agencies should continue to encourage new and consolidated schools to offer both breakfast and lunch and to promote breakfast to schools that offer only lunch.

Finally, participation across all metrics in this report are greater than prior to the beginning of the Great Recession, the effects of which were felt beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. In particular, school breakfast participation grew at a faster rate than school lunch because of growing student need, policy changes, and the hard work of advocates, USDA, and state child nutrition agencies. For example, during the 2012-2013 school year about 30 percent more low-income children participated in school breakfast on an average day, compared to 15 percent more in school lunch, than in the 2007-2008 school year. The ratio of low-income children participating in school breakfast compared to school lunch increased by six points, from 45.9 per 100 to 51.9 per 100.

¹ Due to updated school participation numbers for New Mexico for the 2011-2012 school year, the school participation numbers are revised from FRAC's School Breakfast Scorecard SY 2011-2012, which reported a national school participation rate of 91.2 percent for SY 2011-2012. See Table 2 of this report for revised school participation numbers.

Key State Findings

- In top-ranked District of Columbia and New Mexico respectively, 70.0 and 69.8 low-income children participated in the School Breakfast Program for every 100 low-income children participating in school lunch.
- The District of Columbia had the largest increase in the percentage of low-income children participating in the School Breakfast Program, up 15.6 percent from the 2011-2012 school year.
- Delaware and Hawaii led in school participation, with 100 percent of schools participating in National School Lunch Program also offering the School Breakfast Program; the District of Columbia, South Carolina, and Texas were close behind with at least 99 percent of schools participating.

Participation by Low-income Children

In the 2012-2013 school year, 36 states increased their ratio of low-income children participating in school breakfast compared to those participating in school lunch. This is a testament to advocacy efforts that seek to expand proven strategies such as breakfast in the classroom and “grab-and-go” service models. The District of Columbia was the only jurisdiction to meet FRAC’s goal of 70 low-income children participating in school breakfast per 100 participating in school lunch, although New Mexico came very close with 69.8:100. Typically, the ratio improvement reflected an increase in the overall number of low-income children participating in school breakfast. For example, the District of Columbia had a 15.6 percent growth in participation, and West Virginia and New Jersey each had about 10 percent growth, with Colorado, Hawaii, and Maryland not far behind with 9.7, 9.1, and 8.6 percent growth, respectively.

Unfortunately, 15 states either decreased their ratio or had no change. Notably, Utah, New Hampshire, and Nebraska, the bottom three ranked states from last year’s report, continue to underperform, reaching fewer than 40 low-income children with school breakfast per 100 participating in school lunch. While the majority of states made gains in the 2012-2013 school year, some states lost ground. Wyoming, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire all had reduced average daily participation rates among low-income children of more than 3 percent.

States with the Highest and Lowest Ratios of Low-Income Children Participating in the School Breakfast Program Per 100 Participating in the National School Lunch Program

Top 10 States			Bottom 10 States		
State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank
District of Columbia	70.0	1	Utah	34.3	51
New Mexico	69.8	2	New Hampshire	37.3	50
West Virginia	66.9	3	Nebraska	38.9	49
South Carolina	64.6	4	Wyoming	40.0	48
Kentucky	62.9	5	Iowa	40.5	47
Vermont	61.6	6	South Dakota	41.9	46
Tennessee	61.2	7	Hawaii	42.7	45
Texas	60.8	8	Massachusetts	43.0	44
Oklahoma	59.8	9	Wisconsin	44.0	43
Mississippi	59.3	10	New York	44.1	41

Particularly successful in 2012-2013 were the states where the Community Eligibility Provision was implemented (Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia). Established in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, community eligibility allows high-poverty schools to offer nutritious meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to all students at no charge, without requiring school meal applications. All community eligibility states saw growth in school breakfast participation, with all of the states except Michigan experiencing greater growth than the average of the remaining 44 states. In the aggregate, average daily participation among low-income children in the seven states increased at a considerably higher rate than in non-community eligibility states. In community eligibility states, average daily School Breakfast Program participation among low-income children grew by 5 percent, compared to 2.5 percent for non-community eligibility states.

In the first three states to implement community eligibility—Illinois, Kentucky, and Michigan—schools that have utilized the provision for two school years increased lunch participation by 13 percent, and increased breakfast participation by 25 percent.² Growth in community eligibility states outpaced that of the rest of the nation in the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. The success of the provision thus far also is demonstrated by the increase in the number of schools choosing to utilize the program. In Illinois, Kentucky, and Michigan, the number of schools nearly doubled, from 665 schools in the 2011-2012 school year to 1,240 schools in the 2012-2013 school year.³

Low-Income Student Participation in the School Breakfast Program for Years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Among Community Eligibility Provision States vs. Non-Community Eligibility Provision States			
Community Eligibility Provision States	School Year 2011-2012	School Year 2012-2013	Percent Change in Number of F&RP Students in SBP
	Free & Reduced-Price (F&RP) SBP Students	Free & Reduced-Price (F&RP) SBP Students	
District of Columbia	26,666	30,836	15.6%
Illinois	349,929	376,272	7.5%
Kentucky	215,792	227,574	5.5%
Michigan	316,600	322,901	2.0%
New York	522,351	546,576	4.6%
Ohio	333,486	344,888	3.4%
West Virginia	76,515	83,991	9.8%
Total CEP States	1,841,339	1,933,038	5.0%
Total Non-CEP States	8,684,997	8,904,136	2.5%

School Participation

In Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, South Carolina, and Texas, more than 99 percent of schools that participated in the National School Lunch Program also participated in the School Breakfast Program. In South Carolina all schools are required by law to offer a school breakfast program, and in Texas all schools in which 10 percent or more of the students are certified for free or reduced-price meals are required to do the same. On the

² Community Eligibility: Making High-Poverty Schools Hunger Free; http://frac.org/pdf/community_eligibility_report_2013.pdf

³ Id.

other hand, in Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Wisconsin—the states with the lowest percentage of schools offering school breakfast—between 20 and 25 percent of schools that offer lunch do not offer school breakfast, denying tens of thousands of low-income children in those schools the opportunity to start their day with a healthy breakfast.

Additional Children and Federal Funding

States that have not reached FRAC's goal of serving 70 low-income children school breakfast per 100 participating in school lunch not only miss out on providing children a healthy breakfast to start the day, but they also forgo considerable amounts of federal funding (see Table 4). For example, Texas, New York, California, Florida, and Illinois—the five most populous states—each would have received more than \$50 million in additional school breakfast funding had they achieved the goal of 70:100; California alone missed out on \$138.7 million. Texas, however, is the highest performing among these larger states, with a strong participation ratio of 60.8:100, which is more than 10 points greater than California (49.1:100), Florida (48.2:100), Illinois (45.6:100), and New York (44.1:100). In total, more than 1.5 million additional low-income children could be fed through the School Breakfast Program if Texas, New York, California, Florida, and Illinois met FRAC's goal of serving 70 low-income school breakfast per 100 participating in school lunch. This represents more than two-fifths of the additional low-income children nationally who would be served breakfast if all states met FRAC's goal. If all states reached 70 low-income children with school breakfast per 100 participating in school lunch, 3.8 million additional low-income children would start the day with a healthy meal through the School Breakfast Program and draw down an additional \$964.7 million dollars in federal funding.

Community Eligibility: Making High-Poverty Schools Hunger Free

The Community Eligibility Provision, a new federal option for high-poverty schools and districts to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students, already has begun to demonstrate its potential to increase school breakfast (and lunch) participation and will provide a tremendous opportunity for growth in the coming years.

Initially implemented in more than 2,200 schools in 11 states, community eligibility has been phased in since the 2011-2012 school year and will be available nationwide at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. Illinois, Kentucky, and Michigan implemented the provision in the 2011-2012 school year; the District of Columbia, New York, Ohio, and West Virginia were added in the 2012-2013 school year; and Florida, Georgia, Maryland, and Massachusetts were added in the 2013-2014 school year.

Established in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, community eligibility allows 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 eligible for free school meals who are already identified by other means than an individual household application—can choose to participate. The majority of identified students are directly certified through data matching because their households receive SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR, and in some states and areas, Medicaid benefits. Identified students also include children who are certified for free meals without an application because they are homeless, migrant, enrolled in Head Start, or in foster care.

Reimbursements to the school are determined by multiplying the percentage of identified students by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals reimbursed at the federal free rate. For example, a school with 50 percent identified students would be reimbursed for 80 percent of the meals eaten at the free reimbursement rate ($50 \times 1.6 = 80$), and 20 percent at the paid rate.

Strategies to Increase Participation

Making Breakfast a Part of the School Day

Many states and school districts with high breakfast participation have achieved these gains by moving breakfast out of the cafeteria before school and scheduling it after the bell—making it much more convenient for students to participate. Implementing an alternative service model has proven to be the most successful strategy for schools to increase breakfast participation. Options include:

- **Breakfast in the Classroom:** Meals can either be delivered to the classroom or served from the cafeteria or carts in the hallway, to be eaten in the classroom at the start of the school day.
- **Grab-and-Go:** Children (particularly older students) can easily grab the components of their breakfast quickly from the cafeteria line, or from carts or kiosks in the hallway, to eat in their classroom.
- **Second Chance Breakfast:** Students are offered a second chance to eat breakfast after homeroom or first period. Many middle and high school students are not hungry first thing in the morning. Serving them breakfast after first period allows them ample time to socialize before school, while still providing them with a nutritious start early in the day.

Offering Breakfast at No Charge to All Students

Providing “universal” breakfast at no charge to all students helps remove the stigma associated with means-tested school breakfast (“breakfast is for poor kids”), and streamlines the implementation of successful alternative service models. Schools can offer universal breakfast through the following options:

- **Community Eligibility Provision:** Community eligibility schools, as described above, offer free breakfast and lunch to all students and do not collect, process, or verify school meal applications, or keep track of meals by fee category, resulting in a significant reduction in administrative work and increased participation.
- **Provision 2:** This federal option is designed to reduce paperwork and simplify the logistics of operating school meal programs. Schools using Provision 2 do not have to collect, process, or verify school meal applications or keep track of meals by fee category for at least three out of every four years. (Schools collect school meal applications and count and claim meals by fee category during year one of the multi-year cycle, called the “base year.”) 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 the economies of scale and significant administrative savings to offset the cost differential with federal reimbursements.
- **Nonpricing:** No fees are collected from students, while schools continue to receive reimbursements for the meals served under the three-tier federal fee categories (free, reduced-price, and paid).

Maximizing the Positive Impact of Community Eligibility on School Breakfast Participation

As states prepare for the national expansion of community eligibility in the next school year, there are a number of best practices that have emerged and important steps states should take to ensure widespread, successful school participation. In FRAC’s annual survey of state child nutrition agencies for this report, most respondents reported that they were in the process of or had already planned robust training and outreach opportunities, including community eligibility webinars (67 percent) and training sessions (80 percent). Additionally, 58 percent of states that responded have created a work group to proactively address any implementation barriers.

Advocates can play an important role in outreach to schools and other efforts to streamline implementation. Some key strategies include:

- **Promote community eligibility and provide opportunities for school districts to learn about its benefits.** Advocates can work to disseminate information to school districts and encourage school administrators, school nutrition staff, and board members to consider implementing community eligibility. Sample outreach materials, slide presentations, and other resources are available on [FRAC's Community Eligibility page](#).
- **Identify and address implications for the elimination of school meal applications.** Community eligibility schools no longer collect individual applications, which are traditionally used to determine funding for other education-related programs. Establishing state working groups that include representatives from key stakeholders—the state child nutrition agency, the state department of education, Title I funding, E-rate, accountability and assessment offices—allows states to identify and address any issues that might arise, as well as to provide clear guidance for schools interested in implementing the provision.

Engaging Stakeholders: Principals and Administrators

When implementing strategies to increase school breakfast participation, it is crucial to involve all stakeholders in the planning process in order to dispel concerns and address potential barriers. Teachers, janitorial staff, school administrators, and parents can be valuable resources to determine the most appropriate service model for each school and encourage student participation. Principals in particular play an important role in successful implementation of alternative models such as breakfast in the classroom, by providing leadership and bringing all the necessary stakeholders into the discussion.

Recognizing the influence that principals have on the school environment, including the decision to implement new breakfast service models, FRAC and the National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation in 2013 conducted a survey of 276 principals whose schools offer breakfast in the classroom. The results, published in a joint report "[Start the School Day Ready to Learn with Breakfast in the Classroom: Principals Share What Works](#)," demonstrate an overwhelming support for the program, with 78 percent of principals responding that they would encourage other principals to consider breakfast in the classroom, and many principals reporting an increase in breakfast participation (85 percent), fewer incidents of student hunger (61 percent), fewer tardy students (40 percent), improved student attentiveness (37 percent), and an improved school (34 percent) and classroom (35 percent) environment. The survey highlighted the benefits of the breakfast in the classroom program and provided best practices for addressing any barriers that arose, and can help start a dialogue with school administrators about the health and learning benefits of increasing school breakfast participation.

Targeted Outreach and Technical Assistance: Charter Schools

In the 2012-2013 school year, more than two million children attended charter schools in 41 states, representing 4.6 percent of students nationwide, and that number is expected to grow significantly over the next decade. With the increase in the number of charter schools and charter school students, expanding school meal participation, and school breakfast in particular, is dependent on such schools first implementing the programs. The extent of charter school participation in the school nutrition programs across the country is unknown, as neither USDA nor the U.S. Department of Education collects this data. In some states, including Ohio and Texas, charter schools are subject to state laws requiring participation in school breakfast and lunch in schools. However, in other states, including California, which has the largest number of students attending charter schools, these schools have been exempt. As a result, in some states there is a significant gap in access to school meals for charter school students, despite the fact that more than half of all charter school students would be eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

FRAC's annual survey of state child nutrition agencies for this report revealed some encouraging findings on the topic of charter schools. Of the respondents from states that allow charter schools, 73 percent of the states track the number of charter schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, and most states (54 percent) have developed targeted outreach and training specifically for charter schools. In addition, 68 percent of the states indicated that they integrate charter school content into their general outreach and training programs for all schools. As the number of children attending charter schools expands, it is important to ensure that students, especially low-income ones, are afforded access to nutritious meals at school through the federal programs.

Supporting School Breakfast Participation Through State Legislation

A number of the top performing states—and those that have produced strong growth—have built sustainable school breakfast programs statewide by enacting effective legislation to promote participation. The most recent state breakfast legislation moves beyond the traditional mandate requiring all schools or certain low-income schools to participate in school breakfast (which the majority of states enacted years ago), and focuses instead on requiring high-poverty schools to operate their school breakfast programs in ways that increase student participation. The 2012-2013 school year marked an important year for some emerging trends in state legislation:

Breakfast After the Bell: Groundbreaking legislation requiring high-poverty schools to offer universal free meals through innovative service models after the start of the school day (known as “breakfast after the bell” in some states) began in the District of Columbia in 2010 and New Mexico in 2011, and has now expanded to include Colorado. In July 2013, the Colorado state legislature passed a law requiring schools with 80 percent free and reduced-price eligible children to offer “breakfast after the bell” starting in the 2014-2015 school year. The mandate will extend to all schools with 70 percent free and reduced-price certified students in subsequent school years.

Breakfast at No Charge: This year, advocates in Texas were successful in passing a bill to require all schools with 80 percent or more free and reduced-price certified children to offer breakfast at no charge to all students. The new law builds upon the mandate already in place requiring all schools with 10 percent or more free and reduced-price certified children to offer a school breakfast program. To ensure the passage of this important piece of legislation, advocates put together a diverse coalition and were able to frame the issue as a common-sense solution for high-poverty schools to increase access to the health and educational benefits of school breakfast.

School Breakfast Continues to Get Healthier: New Standards Effective in the 2014-2015 School Year

Schools must meet all the new federal breakfast nutrition standards at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. The new standards have been phased in, with the following requirements going into effect at the start of the next school year:

- Fruit quantity increases to five cups per week (minimum one cup per day);
- All grains must be whole grain-rich;
- Limits on sodium content; and
- All meals selected by students must contain a fruit (or vegetable if using substitution).

Many schools already have implemented these improvements or have begun phasing them in, but some will need to incorporate all of the changes listed above next fall. Increasing school breakfast participation can help support the financial viability of the school nutrition programs—offsetting some of the increased costs of the additional fruits and whole grains by creating labor efficiencies and other savings from economies of scale.

Looking Ahead to 2015: Child Nutrition Reauthorization

The School Breakfast Program, along with other key child nutrition programs, will be up for reauthorization in 2015. The prior reauthorization, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, incorporated several key provisions to increase access to school meals for low-income children, including:

- The Community Eligibility Provision, providing an effective option for schools to offer universal free school meals;
- Improvements to direct certification for free school meals to ensure that more low-income children are certified without an application; and
- Much-needed updates to nutrition requirements based on recommendations from the Institute of Medicine.

In 2015, Congress again will review and has the opportunity to further strengthen the laws governing the child nutrition programs. A well-conceived and adequately financed reauthorization bill, focused on the right program improvements, can increase participation in school nutrition programs, support the momentum seen across the country in the School Breakfast Program, decrease hunger, and provide the health and education benefits afforded by proper nutrition. The Obama Administration, Congress, schools, and advocates will need to work together to develop and enact a reauthorization that focuses on better meeting the needs of the low-income children who are meant to be the primary beneficiaries of the child nutrition programs.

Conclusion

As a result of the tremendous efforts by advocates, school districts, state child nutrition agencies, and USDA, growth in the School Breakfast Program has continued, reaching more low-income children than ever before in the 2012-2013 school year. With more states encouraging, and in some cases requiring, schools to implement proven strategies to increase breakfast participation—including offering free meals to all students and making breakfast a part of the school day—participation in many states has flourished. States that have implemented the Community Eligibility Provision also show the substantial potential of this new option to increase access to school breakfast for children in the nation's poorest and most vulnerable schools. Engaging all the necessary stakeholders to ensure a successful national roll-out of community eligibility in the 2014-2015 school year will be an essential step in expanding participation further. To achieve the maximum impact and ensure that all low-income children have the opportunity to start the day with a healthy breakfast, more states, school districts, and schools must continue to build on these effective strategies for growth.

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 FRAC. This report does not include students or schools that participate in school meal programs in Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or Department of Defense schools.

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

Student Participation

Student participation data for the 2012-2013 school year and prior years are based on daily averages of the number of breakfasts and lunches served during the nine months from September through May of each year, as provided by USDA.

States report to USDA the number of meals they serve each month. These numbers may undergo later revisions by states as accounting procedures find errors or other estimates become confirmed. For consistency, all USDA data used in this report are from the states' 90-day revisions of the monthly reports. The 90-day revisions are the final required reports from the states, but states have the option to revise numbers further at any time after that point.

FRAC applies a formula (divide by 0.938 for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013) based on USDA's annual release of National Average Daily Attendance figures for Coordinated Review Effort, to adjust numbers upwards as an attendance factor to account for participation by different students in a month.

School Participation

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

The Cost of Low Participation Rates

For each state, FRAC calculates the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced-price breakfasts for every 100 children who, on an average day, were receiving free or reduced-price lunches during the same school year. Based on the performance of the top states, FRAC has set an attainable benchmark of every state reaching a ratio of 70 children receiving free or reduced-price breakfast for every 100 receiving free or reduced-price lunch.

FRAC then calculates the number of additional children who would be reached if each state reached this 70:100 ratio. FRAC multiplies this unserved population by the reimbursement rate for 164 school days of breakfast. While some states served breakfast for more or fewer days during the 2012–2013 school year, 164 was the national average. FRAC assumes each state's mix of free and reduced-price students would apply to any new participants, and conservatively assumes that no additional student's meal is reimbursed at the somewhat higher rate that severe need schools (those where more than 40 percent of lunches served in the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price) receive.

**Table 1: LOW-INCOME STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL LUNCH (NSLP) AND SCHOOL
BREAKFAST (SBP)
School Years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013**

State	School Year 2011-2012				School Year 2012-2013				Change in Ratio of SBP to NSLP Participation	Percent Change in Number of F&RP Students in SBP
	Free & Reduced- Price (F&RP) SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank		
Alabama	194,013	385,445	50.3	24	196,084	382,285	51.3	22	1.0	1.1%
Alaska	16,317	38,376	42.5	43	17,075	38,284	44.6	40	2.1	4.6%
Arizona	229,394	493,213	46.5	29	242,560	492,307	49.3	27	2.8	5.7%
Arkansas	137,871	250,695	55.0	13	141,784	246,028	57.6	12	2.6	2.8%
California	1,223,268	2,665,269	45.9	30	1,281,988	2,610,518	49.1	28	3.2	4.8%
Colorado	112,800	246,417	45.8	31	123,742	245,271	50.5	25	4.7	9.7%
Connecticut	70,897	157,342	45.1	33	72,090	153,588	46.9	33	1.8	1.7%
Delaware	29,578	57,636	51.3	21	30,508	58,513	52.1	21	0.8	3.1%
District of Columbia	26,666	38,366	69.5	2	30,836	44,052	70.0	1	0.5	15.6%
Florida	601,825	1,292,062	46.6	28	626,769	1,301,166	48.2	29	1.6	4.1%
Georgia	515,857	895,600	57.6	11	510,090	898,442	56.8	13	-0.8	-1.1%
Hawaii	27,695	69,999	39.6	47	30,209	70,721	42.7	45	3.1	9.1%
Idaho	59,207	108,629	54.5	14	57,519	104,634	55.0	16	0.5	-2.9%
Illinois	349,929	790,184	44.3	36	376,272	825,364	45.6	36	1.3	7.5%
Indiana	210,338	436,718	48.2	26	213,418	451,242	47.3	32	-0.9	1.5%
Iowa	67,976	174,446	39.0	48	71,093	175,631	40.5	47	1.5	4.6%
Kansas	88,615	199,849	44.3	36	91,745	197,589	46.4	34	2.1	3.5%
Kentucky	215,792	351,764	61.3	5	227,574	361,657	62.9	5	1.6	5.5%
Louisiana	228,910	412,745	55.5	12	238,135	404,591	58.9	11	3.4	4.0%
Maine	33,653	63,940	52.6	16	34,080	62,485	54.5	17	1.9	1.3%
Maryland	149,102	283,268	52.6	16	161,985	286,488	56.5	14	3.9	8.6%
Massachusetts	123,993	288,081	43.0	42	124,716	289,869	43.0	44	0.0	0.6%
Michigan	316,600	612,077	51.7	19	322,901	608,056	53.1	19	1.4	2.0%
Minnesota	130,799	277,338	47.2	27	132,885	278,085	47.8	30	0.6	1.6%
Mississippi	187,839	317,441	59.2	9	187,574	316,502	59.3	10	0.1	-0.1%
Missouri	205,464	382,868	53.7	15	210,233	378,957	55.5	15	1.8	2.3%
Montana	21,851	49,005	44.6	34	21,778	48,242	45.1	38	0.5	-0.3%
Nebraska	47,818	123,044	38.9	49	47,436	122,037	38.9	49	0.0	-0.8%
Nevada	75,834	170,354	44.5	35	82,195	173,241	47.4	31	2.9	8.4%
New Hampshire	15,984	41,871	38.2	50	15,462	41,404	37.3	50	-0.9	-3.3%
New Jersey	182,339	441,172	41.3	46	200,925	442,917	45.4	37	4.1	10.2%
New Mexico	122,324	174,317	70.2	1	119,326	170,934	69.8	2	-0.4	-2.5%
New York	522,351	1,210,420	43.2	41	546,576	1,239,638	44.1	41	0.9	4.6%
North Carolina	346,805	673,098	51.5	20	359,150	665,896	53.9	18	2.4	3.6%
North Dakota	14,255	31,356	45.5	32	14,207	30,930	45.9	35	0.4	-0.3%
Ohio	333,486	672,139	49.6	25	344,888	675,684	51.0	24	1.4	3.4%
Oklahoma	185,548	311,510	59.6	8	185,923	310,777	59.8	9	0.2	0.2%
Oregon	115,112	221,353	52.0	18	112,152	212,787	52.7	20	0.7	-2.6%
Pennsylvania	263,489	598,841	44.0	38	270,332	602,717	44.9	39	0.9	2.6%
Rhode Island	27,566	54,501	50.6	22	26,926	53,838	50.0	26	-0.6	-2.3%
South Carolina	227,951	359,436	63.4	4	229,219	355,090	64.6	4	1.2	0.6%
South Dakota	21,009	50,117	41.9	44	21,127	50,477	41.9	46	0.0	0.6%
Tennessee	278,012	479,261	58.0	10	290,545	474,800	61.2	7	3.2	4.5%
Texas	1,502,719	2,516,747	59.7	7	1,523,295	2,506,935	60.8	8	1.1	1.4%
Utah	60,039	177,246	33.9	51	59,705	174,228	34.3	51	0.4	-0.6%
Vermont	17,228	28,296	60.9	6	16,916	27,464	61.6	6	0.7	-1.8%
Virginia	210,810	416,600	50.6	22	215,776	420,206	51.3	22	0.7	2.4%
Washington	160,288	365,172	43.9	39	158,472	359,042	44.1	41	0.2	-1.1%
West Virginia	76,515	117,654	65.0	3	83,991	125,533	66.9	3	1.9	9.8%
Wisconsin	131,517	301,873	43.6	40	126,354	287,073	44.0	43	0.4	-3.9%
Wyoming	11,087	26,777	41.4	45	10,631	26,561	40.0	48	-1.4	-4.1%
TOTAL	10,526,336	20,901,926	50.4		10,837,174	20,880,774	51.9		1.5	3.0%

**Table 2: SCHOOL PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL LUNCH (NSLP)
AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST (SBP)
School Years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013**

State	School Year 2011-2012				School Year 2012-2013				Percent Change in Number of SBP Schools
	SBP Schools	NSLP Schools	SBP Schools as % of NSLP Schools	Rank	SBP Schools	NSLP Schools	SBP Schools as % of NSLP Schools	Rank	
Alabama	1,440	1,513	95.2%	17	1,442	1,499	96.2%	16	0.1%
Alaska	358	443	80.8%	45	354	437	81.0%	45	-1.1%
Arizona	1,596	1,746	91.4%	27	1,608	1,757	91.5%	28	0.8%
Arkansas	1,147	1,176	97.5%	6	1,113	1,139	97.7%	10	-3.0%
California	8,678	10,252	84.6%	39	8,817	10,212	86.3%	38	1.6%
Colorado	1,563	1,739	89.9%	32	1,321	1,626	81.2%	44	-15.5%
Connecticut	700	1,084	64.6%	51	744	1,089	68.3%	51	6.3%
Delaware	243	253	96.0%	13	243	243	100.0%	1	0.0%
District of Columbia	227	231	98.3%	5	229	230	99.6%	5	0.9%
Florida	3,529	3,640	97.0%	8	3,629	3,739	97.1%	12	2.8%
Georgia	2,327	2,419	96.2%	12	2,265	2,340	96.8%	14	-2.7%
Hawaii	308	327	94.2%	22	301	301	100.0%	1	-2.3%
Idaho	677	716	94.6%	19	664	702	94.6%	22	-1.9%
Illinois	3,321	4,391	75.6%	47	3,292	4,276	77.0%	47	-0.9%
Indiana	1,918	2,163	88.7%	33	1,905	2,135	89.2%	32	-0.7%
Iowa	1,321	1,438	91.9%	26	1,317	1,428	92.2%	27	-0.3%
Kansas	1,398	1,548	90.3%	31	1,449	1,564	92.6%	26	3.6%
Kentucky	1,377	1,471	93.6%	24	1,343	1,439	93.3%	24	-2.5%
Louisiana	1,546	1,633	94.7%	18	1,548	1,630	95.0%	19	0.1%
Maine	595	631	94.3%	21	594	621	95.7%	18	-0.2%
Maryland	1,513	1,583	95.6%	14	1,470	1,534	95.8%	17	-2.8%
Massachusetts	1,647	2,247	73.3%	48	1,677	2,250	74.5%	48	1.8%
Michigan	3,140	3,622	86.7%	35	3,082	3,538	87.1%	36	-1.8%
Minnesota	1,740	2,060	84.5%	40	1,662	2,031	81.8%	43	-4.5%
Mississippi	874	933	93.7%	23	866	921	94.0%	23	-0.9%
Missouri	2,291	2,517	91.0%	29	2,308	2,524	91.4%	29	0.7%
Montana	668	807	82.8%	41	697	822	84.8%	41	4.3%
Nebraska	772	972	79.4%	46	787	979	80.4%	46	1.9%
Nevada	544	597	91.1%	28	510	561	90.9%	30	-6.3%
New Hampshire	422	480	87.9%	34	405	455	89.0%	33	-4.0%
New Jersey	1,920	2,704	71.0%	50	1,943	2,636	73.7%	50	1.2%
New Mexico*	755	766	95.4%	16	748	766	97.7%	11	-0.9%
New York	5,298	5,863	90.4%	30	5,967	6,178	96.6%	15	12.6%
North Carolina	2,496	2,512	99.4%	3	2,436	2,479	98.3%	8	-2.4%
North Dakota	354	413	85.7%	37	359	412	87.1%	35	1.4%
Ohio	3,207	3,920	81.8%	44	3,166	3,831	82.6%	42	-1.3%
Oklahoma	1,810	1,872	96.7%	9	1,809	1,866	96.9%	13	-0.1%
Oregon	1,285	1,362	94.3%	20	1,269	1,341	94.6%	21	-1.2%
Pennsylvania	3,133	3,696	84.8%	38	3,091	3,609	85.6%	40	-1.3%
Rhode Island	376	390	96.4%	10	374	378	98.9%	6	-0.5%
South Carolina	1,179	1,185	99.5%	2	1,170	1,174	99.7%	4	-0.8%
South Dakota	582	705	82.6%	42	606	692	87.6%	34	4.1%
Tennessee	1,722	1,773	97.1%	7	1,757	1,794	97.9%	9	2.0%
Texas	8,173	8,248	99.1%	4	8,224	8,241	99.8%	3	0.6%
Utah	795	918	86.6%	36	786	912	86.2%	39	-1.1%
Vermont	342	358	95.5%	15	336	354	94.9%	20	-1.8%
Virginia	1,932	2,004	96.4%	11	1,832	2,017	90.8%	31	-5.2%
Washington	1,954	2,117	92.3%	25	1,960	2,115	92.7%	25	0.3%
West Virginia	738	738	100.0%	1	756	766	98.7%	7	2.4%
Wisconsin	1,799	2,525	71.2%	49	1,876	2,535	74.0%	49	4.3%
Wyoming	295	358	82.4%	43	273	315	86.7%	37	-7.5%
TOTAL	88,025	99,059	88.9%		88,380	98,433	89.8%		0.4%

* Number of SBP and NSLP schools for 2011-2012 was modified from FRAC's 2012 School Breakfast Scorecard

**Table 3: AVERAGE TOTAL DAILY STUDENT PARTICIPATION
IN SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (SBP)
School Year 2012-2013**

State	Free (F) SBP Students		Reduced Price (RP) SBP Students		Total F&RP SBP Students		Paid SBP Students		Total SBP Students
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Alabama	182,311	82.6%	13,773	6.2%	196,084	88.8%	24,633	11.2%	220,717
Alaska	15,264	74.6%	1,811	8.8%	17,075	83.4%	3,392	16.6%	20,467
Arizona	221,422	77.8%	21,138	7.4%	242,560	85.3%	41,881	14.7%	284,441
Arkansas	125,748	76.8%	16,035	9.8%	141,784	86.6%	21,928	13.4%	163,712
California	1,136,906	78.8%	145,082	10.0%	1,281,988	88.8%	161,676	11.2%	1,443,664
Colorado	107,013	70.1%	16,729	11.0%	123,742	81.1%	28,862	18.9%	152,604
Connecticut	65,569	75.8%	6,521	7.5%	72,090	83.3%	14,411	16.7%	86,501
Delaware	28,630	74.0%	1,879	4.9%	30,508	78.8%	8,190	21.2%	38,699
District of Columbia	29,735	86.6%	1,101	3.2%	30,836	89.8%	3,491	10.2%	34,327
Florida	572,935	77.7%	53,834	7.3%	626,769	85.0%	110,539	15.0%	737,308
Georgia	465,204	77.6%	44,886	7.5%	510,090	85.0%	89,722	15.0%	599,812
Hawaii	26,251	68.7%	3,958	10.4%	30,209	79.1%	7,977	20.9%	38,186
Idaho	48,640	65.2%	8,879	11.9%	57,519	77.1%	17,049	22.9%	74,568
Illinois	356,250	85.2%	20,022	4.8%	376,272	90.0%	41,772	10.0%	418,044
Indiana	191,713	75.1%	21,705	8.5%	213,418	83.6%	41,912	16.4%	255,330
Iowa	63,685	68.2%	7,408	7.9%	71,093	76.1%	22,348	23.9%	93,441
Kansas	80,410	74.3%	11,335	10.5%	91,745	84.8%	16,474	15.2%	108,219
Kentucky	211,969	77.5%	15,605	5.7%	227,574	83.3%	45,779	16.7%	273,353
Louisiana	221,459	81.1%	16,677	6.1%	238,135	87.2%	34,928	12.8%	273,063
Maine	29,971	67.5%	4,109	9.2%	34,080	76.7%	10,345	23.3%	44,425
Maryland	144,707	70.1%	17,278	8.4%	161,985	78.5%	44,453	21.5%	206,438
Massachusetts	114,254	76.8%	10,461	7.0%	124,716	83.9%	24,016	16.1%	148,732
Michigan	303,688	80.7%	19,213	5.1%	322,901	85.8%	53,320	14.2%	376,221
Minnesota	113,766	63.5%	19,118	10.7%	132,885	74.2%	46,175	25.8%	179,060
Mississippi	174,132	85.1%	13,442	6.6%	187,574	91.7%	17,056	8.3%	204,630
Missouri	188,667	72.7%	21,566	8.3%	210,233	81.0%	49,337	19.0%	259,570
Montana	18,805	67.8%	2,973	10.7%	21,778	78.5%	5,965	21.5%	27,744
Nebraska	40,334	61.6%	7,102	10.8%	47,436	72.4%	18,041	27.6%	65,477
Nevada	73,605	80.5%	8,590	9.4%	82,195	89.9%	9,214	10.1%	91,409
New Hampshire	13,951	63.3%	1,511	6.9%	15,462	70.2%	6,571	29.8%	22,033
New Jersey	182,765	77.4%	18,159	7.7%	200,925	85.1%	35,055	14.9%	235,980
New Mexico	105,810	73.0%	13,516	9.3%	119,326	82.3%	25,606	17.7%	144,932
New York	508,010	80.5%	38,566	6.1%	546,576	86.6%	84,235	13.4%	630,810
North Carolina	326,483	78.9%	32,667	7.9%	359,150	86.8%	54,461	13.2%	413,611
North Dakota	12,316	52.4%	1,891	8.0%	14,207	60.4%	9,303	39.6%	23,510
Ohio	320,390	77.0%	24,498	5.9%	344,888	82.9%	71,386	17.1%	416,274
Oklahoma	164,662	73.2%	21,261	9.5%	185,923	82.6%	39,043	17.4%	224,966
Oregon	99,884	72.7%	12,269	8.9%	112,152	81.7%	25,171	18.3%	137,323
Pennsylvania	246,857	72.5%	23,475	6.9%	270,332	79.4%	69,943	20.6%	340,275
Rhode Island	24,977	78.4%	1,949	6.1%	26,926	84.5%	4,927	15.5%	31,854
South Carolina	212,064	78.5%	17,156	6.3%	229,219	84.8%	41,044	15.2%	270,264
South Dakota	18,768	70.3%	2,359	8.8%	21,127	79.1%	5,585	20.9%	26,712
Tennessee	265,537	77.2%	25,009	7.3%	290,545	84.5%	53,470	15.5%	344,015
Texas	1,389,657	77.6%	133,638	7.5%	1,523,295	85.0%	268,483	15.0%	1,791,778
Utah	51,918	70.7%	7,787	10.6%	59,705	81.3%	13,710	18.7%	73,415
Vermont	14,836	65.8%	2,080	9.2%	16,916	75.0%	5,636	25.0%	22,552
Virginia	191,499	71.3%	24,277	9.0%	215,776	80.3%	52,797	19.7%	268,573
Washington	139,169	76.6%	19,304	10.6%	158,472	87.2%	23,288	12.8%	181,761
West Virginia	78,876	67.6%	5,115	4.4%	83,991	72.0%	32,709	28.0%	116,700
Wisconsin	114,223	70.0%	12,130	7.4%	126,354	77.5%	36,758	22.5%	163,112
Wyoming	8,747	60.1%	1,884	12.9%	10,631	73.1%	3,916	26.9%	14,547
TOTAL	9,844,444	76.8%	992,730	7.7%	10,837,174	84.6%	1,977,987	15.4%	12,815,161

**Table 4: ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION AND FEDERAL FUNDING IF
70 LOW-INCOME (FREE AND REDUCED PRICE) STUDENTS WERE SERVED SCHOOL
BREAKFAST (SBP) PER 100 SERVED SCHOOL LUNCH (NSLP)**

School Year 2012-2013

State	Actual Total Free & Reduced Price (F&RP) SBP Students	Total F&RP Students if 70 SBP per 100 NSLP	Additional F&RP Students if 70 SBP per 100 NSLP	Additional Annual Federal Funding if 70 SBP per 100 NSLP F&RP Students
Alabama	196,084	267,600	71,516	\$18,339,144
Alaska	17,075	26,799	9,724	\$2,476,118
Arizona	242,560	344,615	102,055	\$26,083,699
Arkansas	141,784	172,220	30,436	\$7,739,251
California	1,281,988	1,827,362	545,374	\$138,675,368
Colorado	123,742	171,690	47,947	\$12,138,714
Connecticut	72,090	107,512	35,422	\$9,047,402
Delaware	30,508	40,959	10,451	\$2,684,504
District of Columbia	30,836	30,836	n/a	\$0
Florida	626,769	910,816	284,047	\$72,616,002
Georgia	510,090	628,910	118,820	\$30,363,456
Hawaii	30,209	49,504	19,295	\$4,888,977
Idaho	57,519	73,244	15,725	\$3,965,810
Illinois	376,272	577,755	201,483	\$51,840,088
Indiana	213,418	315,869	102,451	\$26,109,977
Iowa	71,093	122,942	51,848	\$13,207,117
Kansas	91,745	138,312	46,567	\$11,816,526
Kentucky	227,574	253,160	25,586	\$6,563,237
Louisiana	238,135	283,214	45,079	\$11,560,224
Maine	34,080	43,739	9,660	\$2,452,582
Maryland	161,985	200,541	38,556	\$9,816,497
Massachusetts	124,716	202,908	78,193	\$19,997,788
Michigan	322,901	425,639	102,738	\$26,401,157
Minnesota	132,885	194,659	61,774	\$15,612,309
Mississippi	187,574	221,552	33,978	\$8,710,660
Missouri	210,233	265,270	55,037	\$14,023,799
Montana	21,778	33,770	11,991	\$3,035,027
Nebraska	47,436	85,426	37,990	\$9,590,046
Nevada	82,195	121,269	39,074	\$9,952,467
New Hampshire	15,462	28,983	13,521	\$3,448,510
New Jersey	200,925	310,042	109,118	\$27,871,071
New Mexico	119,326	119,654	328	\$83,420
New York	546,576	867,747	321,171	\$82,354,565
North Carolina	359,150	466,127	106,977	\$27,321,158
North Dakota	14,207	21,651	7,443	\$1,885,203
Ohio	344,888	472,979	128,091	\$32,841,931
Oklahoma	185,923	217,544	31,621	\$8,038,511
Oregon	112,152	148,951	36,799	\$9,363,959
Pennsylvania	270,332	421,902	151,570	\$38,741,428
Rhode Island	26,926	37,687	10,760	\$2,758,209
South Carolina	229,219	248,563	19,344	\$4,955,992
South Dakota	21,127	35,334	14,207	\$3,613,522
Tennessee	290,545	332,360	41,815	\$10,689,434
Texas	1,523,295	1,754,854	231,559	\$59,176,237
Utah	59,705	121,960	62,254	\$15,775,637
Vermont	16,916	19,225	2,309	\$585,977
Virginia	215,776	294,144	78,369	\$19,929,810
Washington	158,472	251,330	92,857	\$23,570,945
West Virginia	83,991	87,873	3,882	\$997,378
Wisconsin	126,354	200,951	74,598	\$19,032,786
Wyoming	10,631	18,592	7,961	\$1,998,723
TOTAL	10,837,174	14,616,542	3,779,367	\$964,742,352

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Alabama	None	None	None
Alaska	None	None	None
Arizona	All K-8 schools are required to participate in NSLP. A waiver may be granted for school districts with fewer than 100 students if the school board determines at a public meeting to not participate. [ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-242].	None	None
Arkansas	All schools located in a school district with 20 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to participate in SBP. [ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-18-705].	The state appropriated \$1,000,000 for SBP start-up grants in schools. The Arkansas Meals for Achievement pilot program will provide grants to schools choosing to implement an alternative breakfast delivery model as part of the school day to all students at no charge, regardless of family income. The grants complement federal funding and will cover the cost of providing a free meal to students who normally pay for school breakfast. [Act 383 of 2013].	School districts may use state education funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch, and to offer free breakfast to all students in schools implementing Provision 2. [ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-20-2305].
California	All public schools (except charter schools) are required to offer at least one meal (breakfast or lunch) on school days to all free and reduced-price certified students. [CAL. EDUC. CODE § 49550].	The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.2229 per free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch served. [CAL. EDUC. CODE §§ 49430.5] The state offers Breakfast Grant funding to its eligible school districts, county offices of education and direct-funded charter schools, with an annual allocation of \$1.017 million. The Breakfast Grant is a competitive grant and awards up to \$15,000 per school site for non-recurring expenses incurred in initiating or expanding an SBP using innovative models such as "Breakfast in the Classroom", "Grab-and-Go", and "Second Chance Breakfast". [Cal. Ed. Code Section 49550.3].	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Colorado	All schools with 80 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to offer breakfast after the bell free to all students in SY 2014-2015. In SY 2015-2016, the requirement extends to all schools with 70 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students. [HB 13-1006]	<p>The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast in all K–12 schools. The state appropriated \$843,495 to cover the cost to school districts for the 2011-2012 school year.</p> <p>The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.40 for lunch for all pre-K–2 students. The state appropriated \$850,000 to cover the cost to school districts for the 2011-2012 school year. [COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-82.7-101]</p>	None
Connecticut	All K-8 schools in which 80 percent of lunches served are free or reduced-price are required to participate in SBP. [CONN. GEN. STAT. § 10-266w]	<p>The state provides an annual grant of \$3,000, and up to \$0.10 per breakfast served, to all schools in which 20 percent or more of lunches served in the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price. [CONN. GEN. STAT. § 10-266w]</p> <p>All public school districts that participate in NSLP are required to certify whether all food items sold to students do or do not meet optional state nutrition standards. The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.10 per lunch served in the preceding school year to school districts that meet the state standards. [CONN. GEN. STAT. § 10-215B]</p>	
Delaware	None	None	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
District of Columbia	All public schools and public charter schools are required to offer free breakfast to all students. All schools with 40 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to implement breakfast in the classroom. Middle and high schools may use alternative serving methods in addition to serving breakfast in the classroom. A waiver may be granted if the school's breakfast participation rate exceeds 75 percent of average daily attendance without offering breakfast in the classroom. [D.C. Code § 38-821.01 et seq. Sec. 203].	The district provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.40 for lunch. [D.C. Code § 38-821.01 et seq. Sec. 102] The district provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.10 per breakfast and lunch that meet the requirements of the Healthy Schools Act (including enhanced nutritional requirements). The district provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.05 per breakfast or lunch each day when at least one component is comprised of locally-grown, unprocessed foods in either breakfast or lunch. [D.C. Code § 38-821.01 et seq. Sec. 102].	None
Florida	All public elementary schools are required to implement an SBP. All schools with 80 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to offer universal free breakfast. Schools may opt out of the universal requirement only after receiving public testimony concerning the proposed policy at two or more regular school board meetings. Schools that implement the universal requirement must, to the maximum extent practicable, make breakfast meals available to students at an alternative site location outside the cafeteria. [FLA. STAT. § 570.981].	None	All school districts are required to provide information about SBP prepared by the district's school nutrition department annually to all students. The information must be communicated through school announcements and by written notice sent to all parents. [FLA. STAT. § 570.981].
Georgia	All K–8 schools with 25 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students and all other schools with 40 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to establish and support an SBP. [GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-66].	The state supplements funding for salaries and benefits for local school nutrition employees. This funding has been reduced by 45 percent since the 2009-2010 school year due to state budget shortfalls. [GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-187].	None
Hawaii	School lunches must be made available in every school where the students are required to eat lunch at school. [HAW. REV. STAT. §302A-404].	None	None
Idaho	None	None	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Illinois	All public schools with 40 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students in the previous school year are required to participate in SBP. School districts may opt out under certain circumstances. [105 ILL. COMP. STAT. § 126/15] All public schools are required to operate a free lunch program that provides free lunches (and free breakfasts if a school offers breakfast) to students certified for free meals. [23 ILL. ADMIN. CODE § 305.10]	The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.15 per free breakfast served. This amount is currently reduced due to limited state funding. [105 ILL. COMP. STAT. §§ 125/2 and 125/6].	None
Indiana	All public schools with 15 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to participate in SBP. [IND. CODE §§ 20-26-9-2 and 13].	None	None
Iowa	All public schools are required to operate NSLP for students who attend public school four or more hours each school day and wish to participate. [IOWA CODE § 283A.2].	The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.03 per breakfast and \$0.04 per lunch until appropriated funds are depleted.	None
Kansas	All public schools are required to participate in SBP. A waiver may be granted for schools with less than 35 percent free and reduced-price certified students. [KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-5125].	None	None
Kentucky	None	None	All school districts are required to arrange bus schedules so buses arrive in sufficient time for schools to serve breakfast prior to the instructional day. [KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 158.070]. In schools that participate in NSLP and/or SBP, schools are required to make meals available to all children attending each school and offer free and reduced-price meals to certified students. Schools may not have physical segregation or other discrimination against any child because of inability to pay the full cost of a meal. [702 KY. ADMIN. REG. § 6:050].

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Louisiana	All schools are required to establish NSLP. All schools with 25 percent or more free and reduced price certified students are required to participate in SBP. [LA. STAT. ANN. §17:192]	None	If a public school system has a policy of denying meals to children in elementary schools for non-payment of meal fees, the school board must implement procedures relative to denying meals. Prior to denying a meal, public elementary schools are required to: a) notify the child's parent or legal guardian as to the date and time after which meals may be denied, the reason for such denial, any action needed to prevent further denial of meals, and the consequences of the failure to take appropriate actions to prevent such denial; and b) verify that the child does not have an Individual Education Plan that requires the child to receive school meals. The school must provide a substitute for the denied meal. School boards must report annually on the number of denied meals and students whose meals were denied. [LA. STAT. ANN. §17:192.1].
Maine	All K-8 public schools are required to participate in NSLP. [20-A ME. REV. STAT. ANN. § 6602].	The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast. The state provides \$1.4 million in funding through the Fund for a Healthy Maine to cover the cost to school districts. [22 ME. REV. STAT. ANN. § 1511] The state provides an additional reimbursement between \$0.03 and \$0.05 per lunch served, depending on participation statewide, totaling approximately \$1.1 million from the general fund. [22 ME. REV. STAT. ANN. § 1511].	None
Maryland	All public elementary schools are required to operate a free and reduced-price breakfast program. A waiver may be granted for schools with less than 15 percent free and reduced-price certified students. [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. §§ 7-701 and 7-702]. All public schools are required to operate a free and reduced-price lunch program. [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. § 7-601].	The state provides an additional \$4.3 million in funding to schools for meals served using a formula-based allocation method. The state also provides funding for Maryland Meals for Achievement, an in-classroom universal free SBP. The state appropriated \$2.82 million annually for the 2011-2012 school year and \$3.38 million for the 2012-2013 school year. [MD. EDUC. CODE. ANN. § 7-704].	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Massachusetts	All public schools are required to participate in NSLP. All severe need schools and those where more than 50 children certified for free and reduced-price meals in the preceding school year are required to participate in SBP. [69 MASS. GEN. LAWS § 1C].	The state provides an additional reimbursement to severe need schools for free and reduced-price meals if breakfast costs exceed federal severe need reimbursements. The state annually appropriates \$2 million to fund universal free breakfast in elementary schools with 60 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students. The state requires schools that receive these funds to use Provision 2. Participating schools receive an additional reimbursement per breakfast if costs exceed other reimbursements (this reimbursement is in addition to the payment for mandated severe need schools). [69 MASS. GEN. LAWS § 1C].	None
Michigan	All K–12 school districts are required to participate in NSLP. All schools with 20 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students during the preceding school year are required to participate in SBP. [MICH. COMP. LAWS § 380.1272A].	The state provides funds to K-12 public school districts participating in NSLP to supplement federal reimbursements. These payments provide each district up to 6.0127 percent of the necessary costs of operating NSLP. The state provides an additional reimbursement per breakfast served, subject to annual appropriation, to cover any losses schools incur in their SBP (based on actual costs or 100 percent of the cost of an efficiently operated program, whichever is less). [MICH. COMP. LAWS § 380.1272D].	None
Minnesota	All public schools in which 33 percent or more of lunches served in the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price are required to participate in SBP. [MINN. STAT. § 124D.117].	The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast and provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.55 per paid breakfast served. [MINN. STAT. §124D.1158]. The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.12 per lunch served. [MINN. STAT. § 124D.111].	None
Mississippi	None	None	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Missouri	All schools with 35 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students in the preceding school year are required to participate in SBP. A waiver may be granted if a majority of the school board votes to opt out. [MO. REV. STAT. § 191.803].	The state provides supplemental hardship grant funding for SBP, subject to appropriation. Any school that participates in SBP can apply and grants are awarded to schools with the highest need. [MO. REV. STAT. ANN. § 191.805].	Agencies responsible for administering food programs, including SBP, are required to collaborate in designing and implementing outreach programs focused on populations at risk of hunger that effectively describe the programs, their purposes, and how to apply for them. These outreach programs must be culturally and linguistically appropriate for the populations most at risk. [MO. REV. STAT. § 191.813].
Montana	None	None	None
Nebraska	None	The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.05 per breakfast served to public schools that also participate in NSLP. [NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-10,138].	None
Nevada	None	None	None
New Hampshire	All schools are required to make a meal available during school hours to every student and are required to provide free and reduced-price meals to any “needy” children. A waiver may be granted by the state school board, but the state is then directed to study and formulate a plan to implement the above requirement in those schools that have been granted waivers. [N.H. REV. STAT. § 189:11-A].	The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.03 per breakfast served by districts that have complied with the federal wellness policy requirement. [N.H. REV. STAT. § 189:11-A].	None
New Jersey	All schools with 20 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to participate in SBP. A one-year waiver may be granted by the state department of agriculture to schools that lack the staff, facilities, or equipment. N.J. STAT. ANN. §§ 18A:33-10 to -12]. All schools with 5 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to offer a lunch program that meets USDA standards and provides free and reduced-price meals to those that qualify.[N.J. STAT. ANN. §§ 18A:33-4 to -5].	The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.055 per free or reduced-price lunch served and \$0.04 per paid lunch served for public schools.	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
New Mexico	All elementary schools with 85 percent or more of free or reduced-price certified students during the prior school year are required to establish a “breakfast after the bell” program unless the school is granted a waiver. The state appropriated \$1.92 million to support the program for the 2011-2012 school year. Participating schools are required to operate a “breakfast after the bell” program throughout the school year and provide instruction while breakfast is served or consumed. [N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-13-13.2].	None	None
New York	All elementary schools, school districts with at least 125,000 inhabitants and schools in which 40 percent or more of lunches served are free and reduced-price are required to participate in SBP. [8 N.Y. CODES R. & REGS. § 114.2].	The state provides an additional reimbursement of \$0.1013 per free breakfast served, \$0.1566 per reduced-price breakfast served, and \$0.0023 per paid breakfast served for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school year. The state provides reimbursement of all expenses exceeding revenues in the first year of breakfast implementation in a public school. The state provides an additional reimbursement per lunch served, adjusted annually. For the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years, the state provided \$0.0599 per paid and free lunch served and \$0.1981 per reduced-price lunch served.	None
North Carolina	None	The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast. The state annually appropriates \$2.2 million to cover the cost to school districts since the 2011-2012 school year. [SESSION LAW 2011-342]. The state provides breakfast grants to support the start- up of innovative SBPs (breakfast in the classroom, grab and go breakfast, second chance breakfast, etc.).	The State Board of Education passed a resolution that breakfast may be included in the instructional day as long as appropriate educational activity is taking place while students are eating breakfast.
North Dakota	None	None	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Ohio	All schools and all chartered or non-chartered nonpublic schools with 20 percent or more students certified for free meals are required to participate in NSLP and SBP. Schools must establish a breakfast program when one half of the parents of children in the school request one. [OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3313.81.3].	None	None
Oklahoma	None	None	None
Oregon	All Title I schools and schools with 25 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to participate in SBP. [OR. REV. STAT. §327.535].	The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast. [OR SB 695].	None
Pennsylvania	None	The state provides an additional reimbursement of no less than \$0.10 per breakfast or lunch served. Schools that participate in both NSLP and SBP receive an additional \$0.02 (\$0.12 total) per lunch, and schools with more than 20 percent of their student enrollment participating in school breakfast receive an additional \$0.04 (\$0.14 total) per lunch. [22 PA. CONSOL. STAT. § 13-1337.1].	None
Rhode Island	All public schools are required to operate a school breakfast and lunch program. [R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 16-8-10 to 10.1].	The state provides an additional reimbursement per breakfast served which is distributed based on each district's proportion of the number of breakfasts served in the prior school year relative to the statewide total in the same year. For the 2012-2013 school year, the state appropriated \$270,000, which provided schools with an additional \$0.051310 per breakfast served.	None
South Carolina	All public schools are required to operate an SBP. A waiver may be granted by the state board of education if the school lacks necessary equipment or facilities, if the program is not cost-effective, or if implementation creates substantial scheduling difficulties. [S.C. CODE ANN. §§ 59-63-790 and 59-63-800].	None	None
South Dakota	None	None	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Tennessee	All schools are required to operate NSLP. All K–8 schools in which 25 percent or more of the students and all other schools in which 40 percent or more of the students received a free or reduced price lunch are required to operate an SBP. [TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-2302].	None	None
Texas	All public schools and open-enrollment charter schools with 10 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to participate in SBP. All schools with 80 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to offer breakfast free to all students. [TEX EDUC. CODE ANN. § 33.901].	None	The state department of agriculture administers a nutrition outreach program The state appropriated \$810,000 for the 2011-2012 school year for grants. No grant funds were appropriated for the 2012-2013 school year.
Utah	None	None	Local school boards are required to review the reasons for a school's nonparticipation in SBP at least every three years. After two reviews, a local school board may, by majority vote, waive any further reviews of the non-participating school. [UTAH CODE ANN. § 53A-19-301].
Vermont	All public schools are required to participate in NSLP and SBP. A waiver may be granted by the commissioner for one year. [VT. STAT. ANN. §§ 1264 and 1265]	The state annually appropriates \$133,000 for additional per meal reimbursements for breakfasts served. The reimbursement rate is determined by dividing the total funds by the total number of breakfasts served. The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast. The state annually appropriates \$170,000 to cover the cost to school districts. [VT. STAT. ANN. §§ 1264]. Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, the state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.40 for lunch. For FY 2014, \$322,250.00 was appropriated to cover the cost to school districts. [S. 26 H. 60]	None

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Virginia	All public schools with 25 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to participate in SBP. [VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-207.3].	The state annually appropriates funds for an incentive program to increase student participation in SBP. The funds are available to any school district as a reimbursement for each breakfasts served in excess of the participation baseline set in the 2003–2004 school year. Schools received \$0.22 for the 2010-2011 school year.	None
Washington	All schools with 25 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to operate NSLP for all K-4 students. [WASH. REV. CODE § 28A.235.160]. All schools with 40 percent or more free and reduced-price certified students are required to operate an SBP. [WASH. REV. CODE § 28A.235.160].	The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.30 for breakfast. The state annually appropriates \$7.11 million to cover the cost to school districts and to provide an additional reimbursement of \$0.17 per free and reduced-price breakfast served. The state provides funding to eliminate the reduced-price fee of \$0.40 for lunch for all K-3 public school students. The superintendent of public instruction may grant additional funds for breakfast start-up and expansion grants, when appropriated. [WASH. REV. CODE § 28A.235.150].	None
West Virginia	All schools are required to operate a school breakfast and lunch program. Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, all schools are required to adopt a delivery system approved by the state agency that ensures all students are given an adequate opportunity to eat breakfast, including but not limited to, Grab-And-Go, Breakfast in the Classroom, or Breakfast After First Period. [W. VA. CODE § 18-5D-1 to 5].	Public-Private Partnerships will be developed to help cover additional costs for schools to offer universal free breakfast and/or lunch. The state agency will create a nonprofit foundation to help county boards of education raise funds to cover the cost. [W. VA. CODE § 18-5D-1 to 5].	The board of education requires that students be afforded at least 10 minutes to eat after receiving their breakfast. [W. VA. C.S.R. § 126-86-7].

State	State mandate requiring all or some schools to offer SBP and/or NSLP	Additional State Funding	Other Legislation
Wisconsin	None	The state provides an additional reimbursement per lunch served and breakfast served. For the 2010-2011 school year, the state provided \$4.07 million for an additional \$0.04142 per lunch served and \$2.51 million for \$0.09492 per breakfast served. For the 2011-2012 school year, the state funding for lunch increased to \$4.12 million, providing an additional \$0.04227 per lunch served and breakfast funding remained at \$2.51 million, which provided an additional \$0.09021 per breakfast served. [WIS. STAT. §115.341].	None
Wyoming	None	None	None