

Data for Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility

2023-2024

Description

Each year, sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) report the enrollment and the number of students eligible for free and reduced price school meal benefits on their October claim for reimbursement. Applications and claims for reimbursement are reported to the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Nutrition via the Claims Reimbursement and Reporting System (CRRS).

The NSLP data is collected by reporting site. In most instances a reporting site is a school building, such as an elementary or middle school. However, if an elementary and middle school are located in the same building, and are served from one cafeteria, it may be designated as a single reporting site. The information for a reporting site is only available in the aggregated form. Separate buildings with separate cafeterias should be reported as individual buildings.

The Office of Nutrition compiles the data and posts publicly each year. This data is considered the most current until the next file is published. Revised data could be published after the initial posting. This data would be clearly marked as “revised” and should be considered the official data.

Data Source

The Office of Nutrition compiles data reported by sponsors of the National School Lunch Program via their Claims Reimbursement and Reporting System’s annual application and the most recent October claim for reimbursement. The Office for the Child Nutrition collects additional data from sponsors opting Community Eligibility Provision and Provision 2.

Community Eligibility Provision: The Enrolled Students, CEP Eligible Students and Free student percentage are taken from the CEP Schedule Site Groupings reported in CRRS. [Click here](#) for more information about Community Eligibility Provision.

Site ID	Site Name	Group	Eligible Students	Enrolled Students	Identified Student %	Reimbursement % Free	Reimbursement % Paid
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Provision 2: Schools/reporting sites participating in Provision 2 report the CE and the number of free and reduced price applicants when a base year is established. In succeeding years (until a new base year is established), the current CE is reported and the number of free and reduced price applicants is taken from the base year claim. [Click here](#) for more information about Provision 2. *See the Data Definition – Provision Year for more information.*

Limitations

The following notes are known limitations of the data:

- Not all schools participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Schools that participate in the NSLP but do not submit a claim for reimbursement in October will not be listed.
- When a reporting site includes more than one school building, no record is kept of which buildings are included in the reporting site.
- Sponsors/reporting sites that use Provision 2 report the current enrollment (CE) and the number of free and reduced-price applicants when a base year is established. In the succeeding years (until a new base year is established), only the current CE is reported. The number of free and reduced price applicants is taken from the base year.

Data Definitions:

County – county where the sponsor is located. Source: (CRRS).

Sponsor IRN – the Internal Retrieval Number (IRN) assigned to an entity by the Ohio Department of Education. Source: (CRRS).

Sponsor Name – entity that participates in the National School Lunch Program. Public school districts, non-public schools, residential childcare institutions and some camps are eligible program sponsors. Source: (CRRS).

Site IRN – the IRN assigned to a school/reporting site by the Ohio Department of Education. Source: (CRRS).

Site Name – name of school or reporting site participating in the National School Lunch Program. Source: (CRRS).

NSLP Provision- Provision type that each site participating.

Provision Year – if the school/reporting site is participating in the alternative meal counting method (Provision 2) the Provision 2 Base Year will be displayed.

Enrollment:

Traditional and Provision 2: - the highest daily number of students in October at that reporting site with access to meals served under the National School Lunch Program.

Community Eligibility Provision: - the highest daily number of students in April at that reporting site with access to meals served under the National School Lunch Program.

Free Lunch Applications:

- **Traditional and Provision 2** - the highest number of student applicants **approved** for free meal benefits in October for that reporting site. An applicant is considered eligible for free meal benefits if the household income is at or less than 130% of the USDA established poverty guidelines or if the student receives food stamps or Ohio Works First (OWF) benefits.
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**-This information is not applicable to CEP sites.

Reduced Price Lunch Applications:

- **Traditional and Provision 2** - the highest number of student applicants approved for reduced price meal benefits in October for that reporting site. An applicant is considered eligible for reduced price meal benefits if the household income is at or less than 185% of the USDA established poverty guidelines. Source: **CRRS**
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** - This information is not applicable to CEP sites.

Percent Free Lunch:

- **Traditional & Provision 2:** percent of student applicants approved for free meal benefits (Free Lunch Applications) of Enrollment capped at 100%. Source: **Calculated.**
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** - This information is not applicable to CEP sites.

Percent Reduced Price Lunch:

- **Traditional & Provision 2:** percent of student applicants approved for reduced price meal benefits (Reduced Price Lunch Applications) of Enrollment. Source: **Calculated.**
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** - This information is not applicable to CEP sites.

Percent Free and Reduced Price Lunch:

- **Traditional & Provision 2:** percent of student applicants approved for Free and Reduced Price meal benefits) of Enrollment capped at 100%. Source: **Calculated.**

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) – Per US Department of Agriculture guidance, CEP eligible students are multiplied by 1.6 in order to account for underestimation of eligible students from direct certification. $((\text{CEP eligible students} * 1.6) / \text{CE})$

Site ID	Site Name	Group	Eligible Students	Enrolled Students	Identified Student %	Reimbursement % Free	Reimbursement % Paid
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CEP Eligible Students – The number of students identified as eligible for free lunch based on direct certification. Per US Department of Agriculture guidance, for claim reimbursement and the calculation of percent free lunch (PctFreeRedCE) this number is multiplied by 1.6 in order to account for underestimation of eligible students from direct certification:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>