



Community Eligibility Provision

What is the Community Eligibility Provision?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a school meal funding option that allows eligible schools to offer meals to all students at no charge. CEP provides schools a more streamlined approach to counting and claiming meals.

Under CEP, individual schools, groups of schools or entire districts calculate their Identified Student Percentage (ISP), which is the percentage of the student body automatically certified for free school meals due to their participation in other safety net programs (SNAP, TANF, FDPIR). A multiplier of 1.6 is then applied to the ISP to determine the percentage of meals served that will be reimbursed at the “free” rate. The remainder of the meals are reimbursed at the “paid” rate.

What is high breakfast participation?

It means schools have met or exceed the national benchmark of 70 Free/Reduced Price (FRP) breakfast served for every 100 FRP lunches.

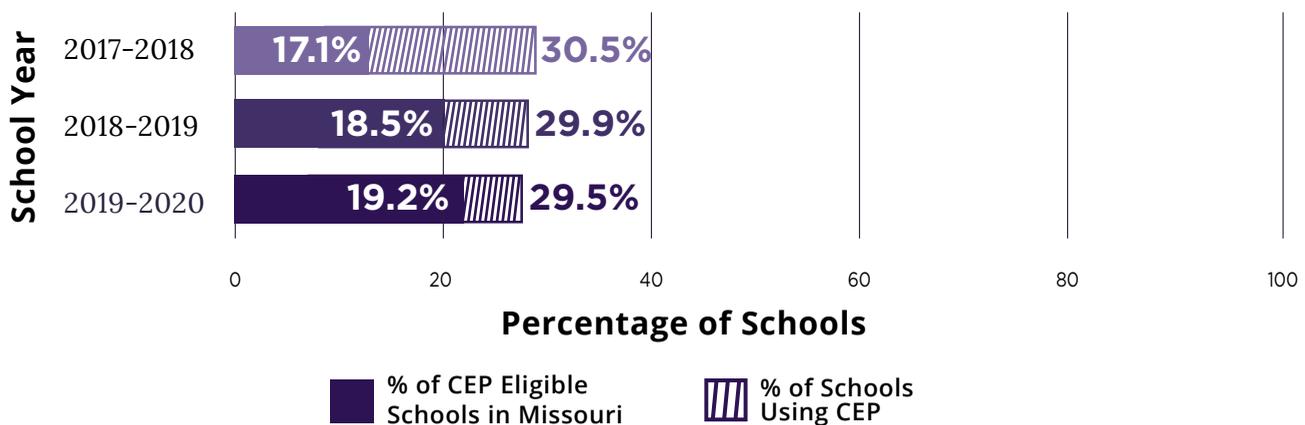
2019-2020 Key Findings

Schools using the Community Eligibility Provision were **2.4x more likely to have high breakfast participation.**

The CEP benefits students, families and schools. In the 2019-2020 school year, schools using CEP **were 2.4 times more likely to have high breakfast participation** than non-CEP schools. Furthermore, 58.4% of CEP schools have met or exceeded the national benchmark for school breakfast participation indicating that CEP successfully increases participation in the School Breakfast Program.

Over the years, more eligible schools have adopted CEP. However, less than 20% of all schools and only about 30% of CEP eligible schools adopted CEP in the 2019-2020 school year. An **additional 271 schools could have used CEP** in the 2019-2020 school year to provide meals to all students.

CEP Utilization in Missouri

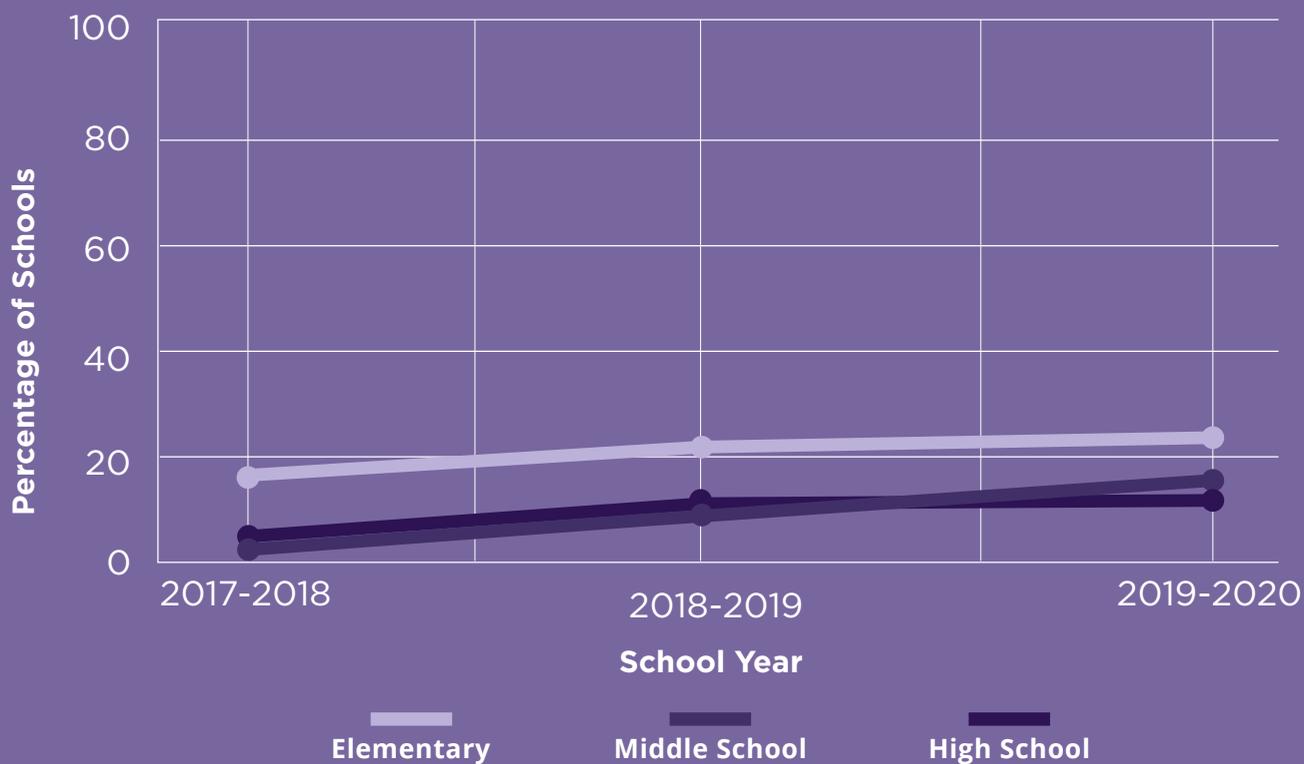




Serving Success with CEP

In the last three school years, Missouri has seen a modest increase in utilization of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) across grade levels. Elementary schools continue to adopt CEP at a higher rate than middle and high schools.

CEP Utilization by School Level



Studies show CEP supports both students and schools. With CEP, school meals are available at no cost to students, just like textbooks. Students whose nutritional needs are met are more attentive in class and have higher attendance, which in turn increases graduation rates and job readiness.

CEP also reduces administrative burdens on schools by eliminating school meal applications, counting and claiming meals by fee category and unpaid meal charges. Plus, increasing the number of meals served each morning generates revenue for school nutrition budgets. Eligible schools across the state should consider adopting CEP to help ensure students have the nutrition they need to learn.

MOSchoolBreakfast.org

School breakfast data was obtained from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.