Free and Reduced Lunch Program — 2019-2020

The National School Lunch Program is a federally funded program that assists schools in providing nutritious lunches to children at reasonable prices. The program is administered by the Iowa Department of Education, and eligibility is based on family size and income: families at or below 130.0% of the federal poverty level are eligible for free lunch; families between 130.0% and 185.0% of the federal poverty level are eligible for reduced lunch. See [USDA Eligibility Guidelines](#) for details.

Percentage of Enrollment Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch — SY 2019-2020

![Map showing percentage of enrollment eligible for free or reduced-price lunch](#)

Note: Districts with the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) have at least one building in the district that participates in the program. CEP allows schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students and eliminates the burden of collecting household applications to determine eligibility; 19 schools use this provision. Financial viability is a main reason cited for districts not to use CEP, as it takes approximately 62% Identified Student Percentage (ISP) to cover costs. See [CEP Information for Iowa Schools](#).

Meal Reimbursement Rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lunch:</th>
<th>Breakfast:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free: $3.41</td>
<td>Free: $1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced: $3.01</td>
<td>Reduced: $1.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid: $0.32</td>
<td>Paid: $0.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional reimbursement is available for nutrition standards compliance, severe-need schools, and state reimbursement for breakfast (SY19-20).

Change in the Percent of Enrollment Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch — 2009-2010 to 2019-2020

![Map showing change in percentage eligible](#)

Sources: Department of Education, LSA calculations
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