

## SNACT Meal Debt Survey

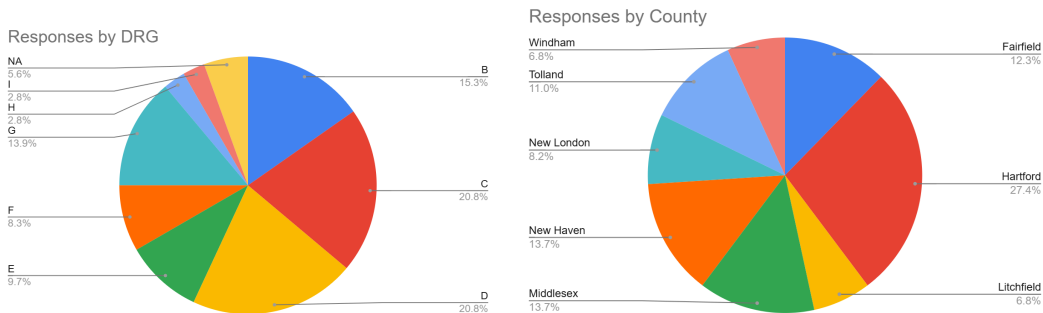
Survey Opened January 6, 2025 closed January 31, 2025

72 Districts responded (There are 169 districts that participate in NSLP, so this # represents 43% of NSLP participating districts)

Districts were asked to report their debt as of December 2024 (debt commences with the start of the school year, there is no carry over from prior years)

Debt accumulated during approximately 16 weeks of school

Geographically, districts in every county and 8 of 9 [DRG](#) responded



### Breakdown of responding districts

56 (77%) of responding districts are not CEP

5 (8) are partial CEP

11 (15%) are full CEP districts

## Statewide Total

**UNPAID MEAL DEBT TOTAL FOR ALL REPORTING DISTRICTS AS OF DEC 31, 2024 :** (Includes CEP, Non CEP and Partial- in theory full CEP district should not have meal debt, though 1 reports carrying debt)

	Debt as of 12/31/24	Estimated 2024-2025 EoY Debt	2023-24 EoY Debt	% increase
All responding districts (73)	\$862,555	\$1,340,369	\$938,610	42.8%
Breakdown of debt per districts	\$11,981	\$18,616	\$13,036	42.8%

**National Average Debt:** SNA reports that national average debt is 26% higher than last year.

**National Average per District Debt:** SNA reports that national average debt is \$6,900 per district.

## Statewide: Non CEP and Partial CEP Breakdown

### UNPAID MEAL DEBT TOTAL FOR NON CEP & PARTIAL CEP DISTRICTS

	Total Debt as of 12/31/24	Estimated total 2024-2025 EoY Debt	2023-24 EoY Debt	% increase in debt (EOY)
Non CEP Districts (56)	\$714,113	\$1,087,834	\$787,062	38.2%
Partial CEP Districts (5)	\$123,442	\$211,680	\$155,693	35.9%
<b>TOTAL DEBT</b>	<b>\$837,555</b>	<b>\$1,299,514</b>	<b>\$942,755</b>	<b>37.8%</b>

**Non CEP and Partial CEP PER District Debt.** Total reported debt / by number of districts reporting.

Partial CEP districts carry higher meal debt per district.

	Per district Debt as of 12/31/24	Estimated per district 2024-2025 EoY Debt	2023-24 per district EoY Debt	% change in per district debt
Non CEP Districts (56)	\$12,752	\$19,426	\$14,044	38.3%
Partial CEP Districts (5)	\$20,574	\$35,280	\$25,949	35.9%
<b>DISTRICT DEBT</b>	<b>\$13,730</b>	<b>\$21,303</b>	<b>\$15,544</b>	<b>37%</b>

## COUNTY LEVEL Breakdown

### Non CEP and Partial CEP Districts TOTAL Meal debt by County

County	Debt as of 12/31/24	Estimated 2024-2025 EoY Debt	2023-24 EoY Debt	% change
Fairfield (7 NCEP/1 Partial))	\$202,995	\$289,634	\$210,296	37.7%
Hartford (14 NCEP /1 Partial)	\$222,147	\$389,500	\$258,987	50.3%
Litchfield (4 NCEP)	\$34,247	\$65,000	\$31,279	107%
Middlesex (9 NCEP)	\$69,886	\$120,500	\$94,335	27.7%
New Haven (7 NCEP)	\$103,288	\$155,000	\$113,192	36.9%
New London (6 NCEP)	\$58,95	\$107,000	\$104,516	2.4%
Tolland (6 NCEP/ 1 Partial)	\$85,959	\$85,700	\$67,415	27%
Windham (3 NCEP / 2 Partial)	\$60,129	\$85,680	\$62,736	36.6%

## Non CEP and Partial CEP Districts PER DISTRICT TOTAL

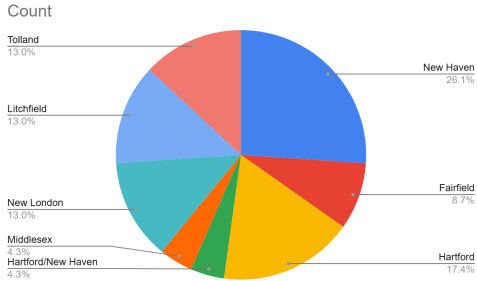
Every county has debt and every county anticipates an increase in debt over 2023-2024 debt levels.

County	Debt as of 12/31/24	Estimated 2024-2025 EoY Debt	2023-24 EoY Debt	% change
Fairfield (7 NCEP/1 Partial))	\$25,374	\$36,204	\$26,287	37.7%
Hartford (14 NCEP /1 Partial)	\$16,476	\$25,967	\$20,189	28.6%
Litchfield (4 NCEP)	\$8,562	\$16,250	\$7,820	107%
Middlesex (9 NCEP)	\$7,765	\$13,389	\$10,482	27.7%
New Haven (7 NCEP)	\$14,755	\$22,143	\$16,170	36.9%
New London (6 NCEP)	\$9,817	\$17,833	\$17,419	2.4%
Tolland (6 NCEP/ 1 Partial)	\$12,280	\$12,243	\$9,631	27%
Windham (3 NCEP / 2 Partial)	\$12,026	\$17,136	\$12,547	36.6%

## CEP DISTRICT Operating Losses

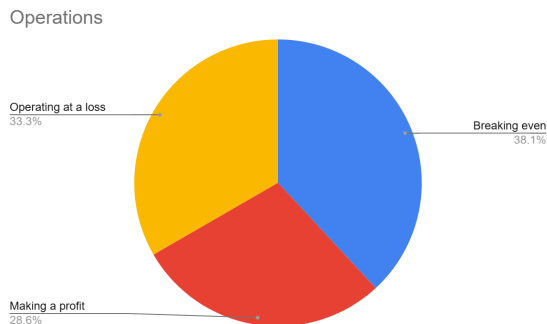
23 Districts responded (There are ??? CEP sponsors in CT)

### Counties Represented



21 out of 23 Districts are full CEP. 2 are partial CEP Majority are full CEP (every school in district participating)

## Majority report that they operate at a loss or break even



Total CEP operating loss reported equalling 2,690,000 (7 reporting districts)

Range of 1.6 million to 20,000)

### Key Takeaways

- In a 2025 survey of CT school nutrition directors, **43% of districts reported an increase in school meal debt** in fall of 2024. This is **17 percentage points higher** than the national average debt (source: SNA)
- The average debt per district is \$11,981 this fall with an anticipated average debt of \$18,600 by the end of the school year. **This is x% higher than the national average.**
- The total reported school meal debt from Sept-Dec is **over \$850,000 with an estimated end of school year debt of 1.34 million dollars.**
- Districts who have 1 or more schools eligible but not all schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision where students are able to eat at no-cost, **reported more total student debt than non-CEP participating districts**

### Information about the survey

- Response rate: 42% of those participating in the National School Lunch Program
- Inclusive of all CT counties and 8/9 District Reference Groups