

SNACT Report on Meal Price Survey

Survey Opened March 27, 2025 closed April 11,2025

35 Directors responded (There are 169 districts that participate in NSLP, so this # represents roughly 20% of NSLP participating districts.) Some Directors cover more than 1 district, so the actual number of districts covered is slightly higher than 20%.

The link to the excel spreadsheet is [here](#) If you want to share, sort or reorder, please download it.

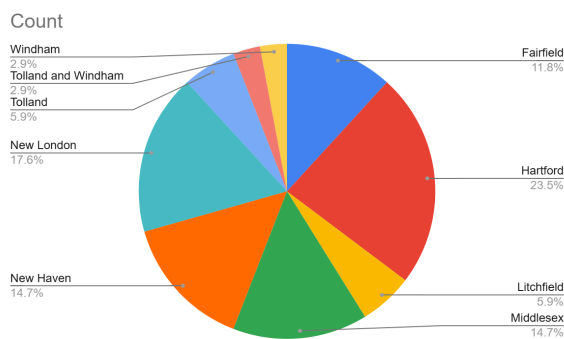
4 (11%) of responding districts are full CEP (meal prices are for second lunches / adult meals)

4 (11%) are partial CEP (meal prices for non-CEP schools)

25 (77%) are non CEP schools

Geographic Breakdown

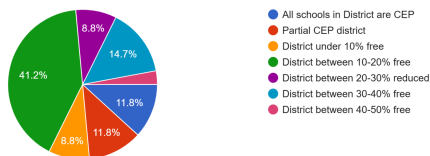
Districts in every county responded



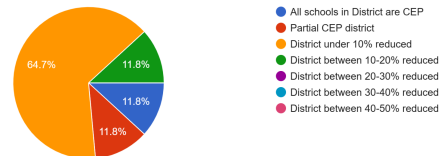
Breakdown of Free & Reduced in responding districts

The majority of districts responding have less than half of their students receiving free and reduced meals

What percentage of your students qualify for free meals?
34 responses



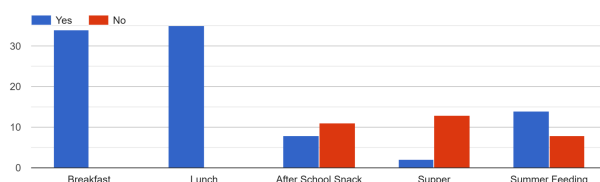
What percentage of your students qualify for reduced meals?
34 responses



Program Participation

Every responding district provides lunch and 34 out of 35 provide breakfast.

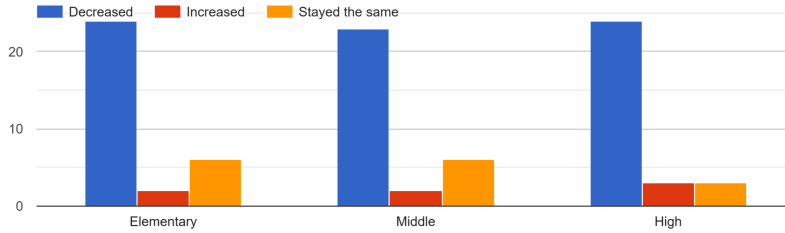
Please check all the programs that your district participates in



Participation

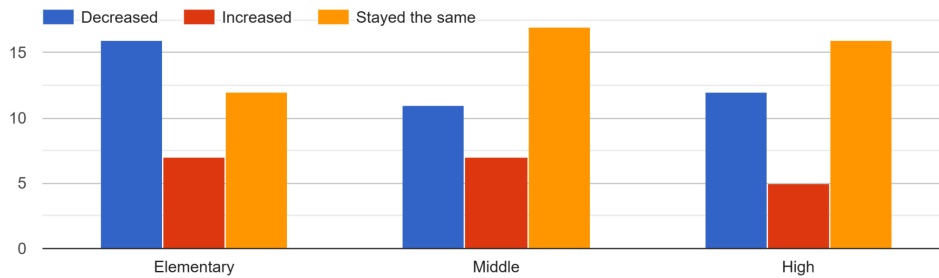
The majority of districts report **breakfast participation** has decreased across all grade levels. Of the 4 full CEP schools, 3 report participation has remained level and 1 reports an increase. Of the partial CEP schools 1 stayed the same, 2 decreased and 1 increased.

Has breakfast participation (% of students) increased or decreased over last year?



Lunch participation has stayed the same or increased in the majority of districts across all grade levels. Of the 4 full CEP schools, 3 report participation has remained level and 1 reports an increase. Of the partial CEP schools 1 reported decrease in all levels and 1 stayed the same in all grade levels and 2 reported a mix of increasing/staying the same across grade levels.

Has lunch participation (% of students) increased or decreased over last year?



Statewide Meal Pricing

Note about averages: CEP schools are removed from average, since CEP schools do not charge students for “first meal” . Meal prices reported by full CEP schools are second lunch and adult prices.

What meals consist of:

Breakfast must include the option of: lean protein, whole grain, fruit, fat free or 1% milk

Lunch must include the option of : lean protein, whole grains, vegetables and fruit, fat free or 1% milk

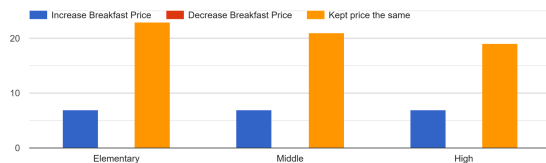
Current Year (2024-2025)

	Elementary	Middle	High School
Breakfast Prices Average	\$2.05	\$2.24	\$2.27
Breakfast Prices Range	\$1.50- 2.50	\$ 1.75 - 2.50	\$2.00 -3.35
Lunch Prices Average	\$3.27	\$3.48	\$3.81
Lunch Prices Range	\$3 - 4.00	\$3.10- 4.25	\$3.10 - 5.50

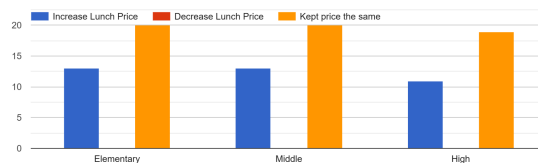
Upcoming Year (2025-2026)

The majority of districts report they plan to keep breakfast and lunch prices the same in the upcoming year.

For 2025-2026 SY do you anticipate changing current breakfast pricing?



For 2025-2026 SY do you anticipate changing current lunch pricing?



Projected Prices in 2025-2026

	Elementary	Middle	High School
Breakfast Prices Average	\$2.18	\$2.35	\$2.53
Breakfast Prices Range	\$1.50- 2.50	\$ 1.75 - 2.75	\$2.00 -3.35
Lunch Prices Average	\$3.43	\$3.67	\$4.07
Lunch Prices Range	\$3.00 - 4.00	\$3.50- 4.25	\$3.75 - 5.75

COUNTY LEVEL Meal Pricing Breakdown

Current Year (2024-2025)

County	Elementary Breakfast	Middle School Breakfast	HighSchool Breakfast	Elementary Lunch	Middle School Lunch	High School Lunch
Fairfield (4 incl 1 Partial CEP)	2.15	\$2.40	\$2.58	\$3.10	\$3.29	\$3.58
Hartford (8 incl 1 full CEP)	\$1.89	\$2.13	\$2.26	\$3.23	\$3.49	\$3.69
Litchfield (2)	\$2.12	\$2.38	\$2.25	\$3.25	\$3.50	\$3.50
Middlesex (5 incl 1 full CEP)	\$2.40	\$2.54	\$2.70	\$3.81	\$4.00	\$4.12
New Haven (5 incl 1 full CEP)	\$1.83	\$2.03	\$2.41	\$3.19	\$3.40	\$4.55
New London (6 incl 1 full and 1 partial CEP)	\$1.95	\$2.13	\$2.25	\$3.19	\$3.34	\$3.55
Tolland / Windham (4 incl 2 partial CEP)	\$2.03	\$2.15	\$2.21	\$2.17	\$3.30	\$3.43

Key Takeaways- DO WE WANT TO SAY ANYTHING?

Why is there a variation in meal prices? Amount of benefits/ non food items an food service program must cover

Cost of incorporating local produce and products

Cost of non food procuts- compostables/ trays, etc

School food service programs are able to deliver complete, balanced nutrition dense foods to children for less than the cost of a latte.