

School Meals Receipt: 2022

Survey of Income and Program Participation Snapshots

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64% of children aged 5 to 18 participated in school meals programs.

Roughly 96 percent of children who received school meals got school lunch. School meals may be free, reduced price, or full price for families that use them.

55% of free or reduced-price school meals recipients were primary-school-age children (aged 5 to 11).

High school students (aged 15 to 18) were the smallest group of free or reduced-price school meals recipients (22 percent). Middle school students (aged 12 to 14) accounted for the remaining group of school meals recipients (24 percent).

2 in 3 free or reduced-price school meals recipients received both school breakfast and lunch.

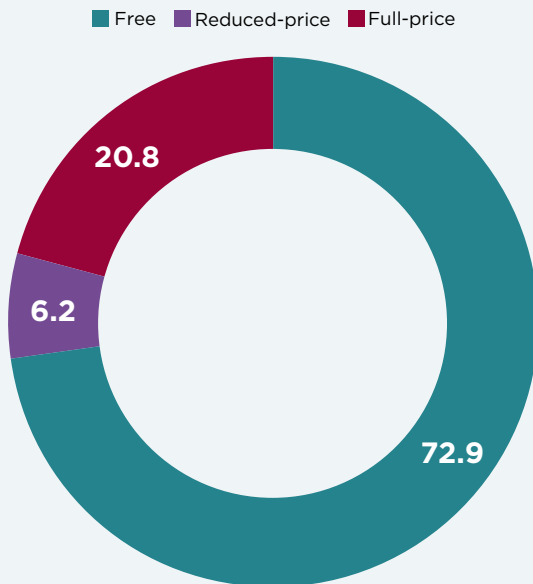
A smaller percentage of free or reduced-price school meals recipients got only one school meal: 27 percent received only lunch and 7 percent received only breakfast.

What Are School Meals?

The [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#) and [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#) are programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). These programs provide low-cost or free school meals each day in many school districts across the country. While many students are subject to income eligibility requirements in order to receive free or reduced-price school meals, [some states and localities provide free breakfast and/or lunch to all children.](#)

More information on school meals and other social safety net programs is available in [fact sheets](#), [detailed program participation tables](#), [interactive data visualizations](#), and [reports](#).

School Lunch Type Among Children Who Received School Lunch: 2022 (In percent)



Note: All school meals served through federal meals programs are partially subsidized, including full-price meals.

Characteristics of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Meals: 2022 (In percent)

