

NC's School Nutrition Programs:

*Supporting students' health, well-being,
academic and future success*



Office of School Nutrition

*We think nutrition because
students can't think
without it!*

Panelists

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Cumberland County Schools

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Child Nutrition Executive Director
Hoke County Schools

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Child Nutrition Director
Montgomery County Schools

Charlene Locklear

Child Nutrition Director
Robeson County Schools

Academically, students who experience food insecurity and hunger are more likely to have:

- reduced cognition or brain function
- limited attention span
- difficulty concentrating and performing complex tasks
- more behavioral problems
- lower standardized test scores
- retention at grade level



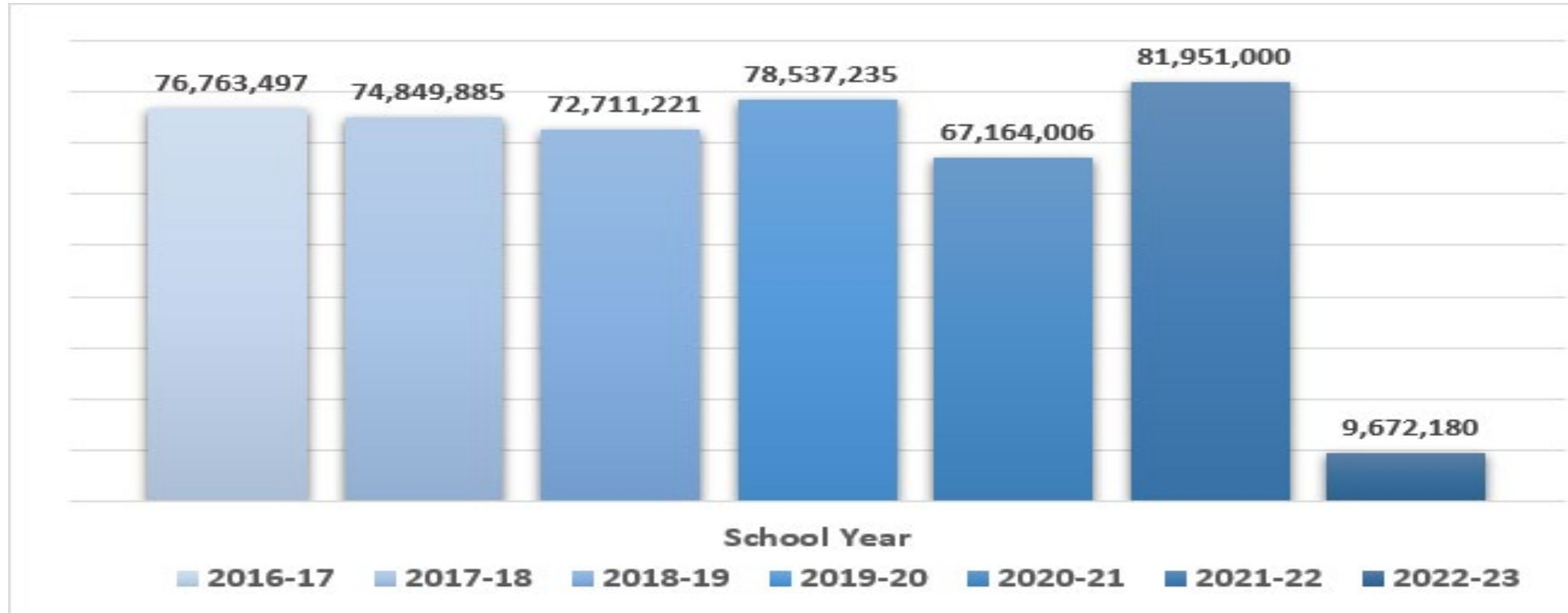
Hunger has long lasting, devastating effects on the health, social and emotional well-being and academic success of students.

SBE Strategic Priority

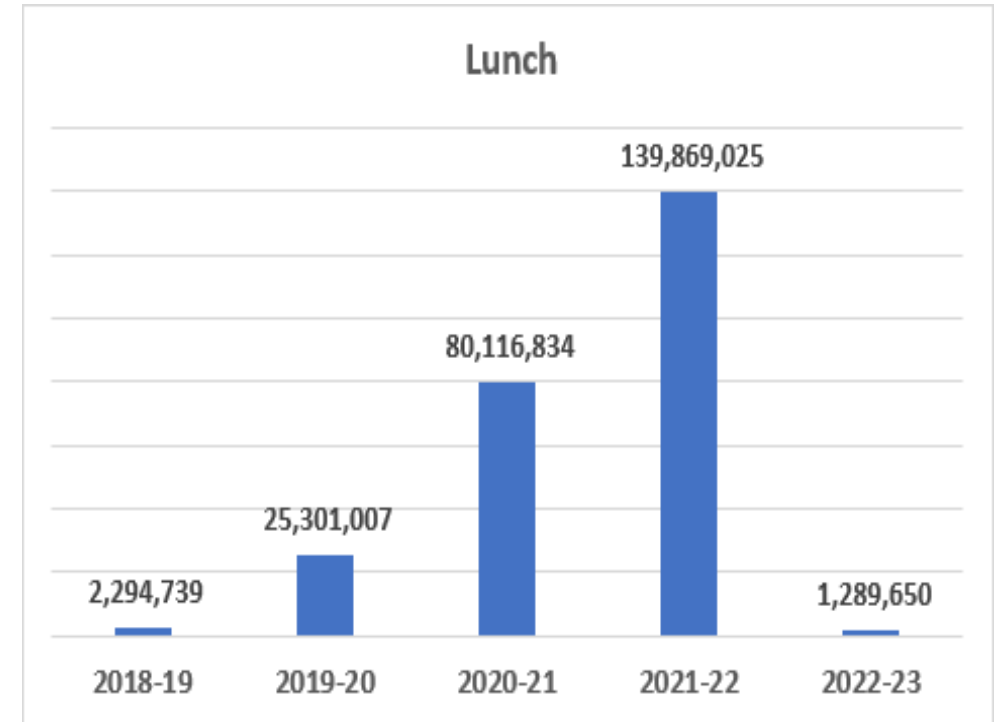
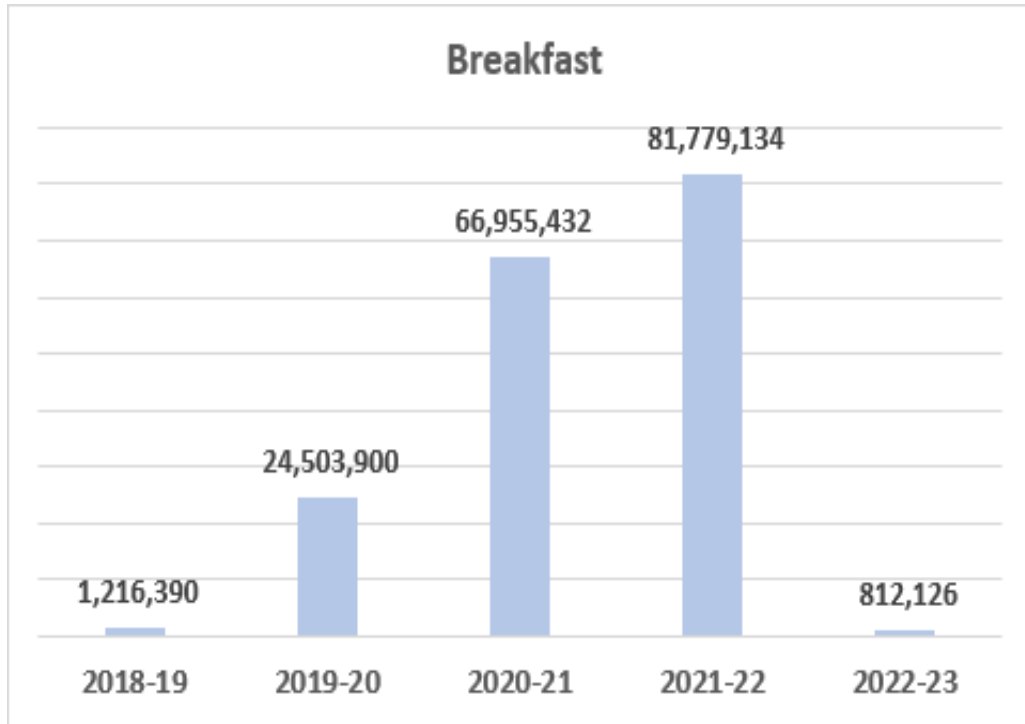
- Goal 1, Objective 2 – Component 3

Increase the number of schools and districts utilizing innovative “Breakfast After the Bell, Summer Meals, and At-Risk Afterschool Meals Programs” to keep students fed, healthy and engaged.

School Breakfast Participation 2016 - 2022

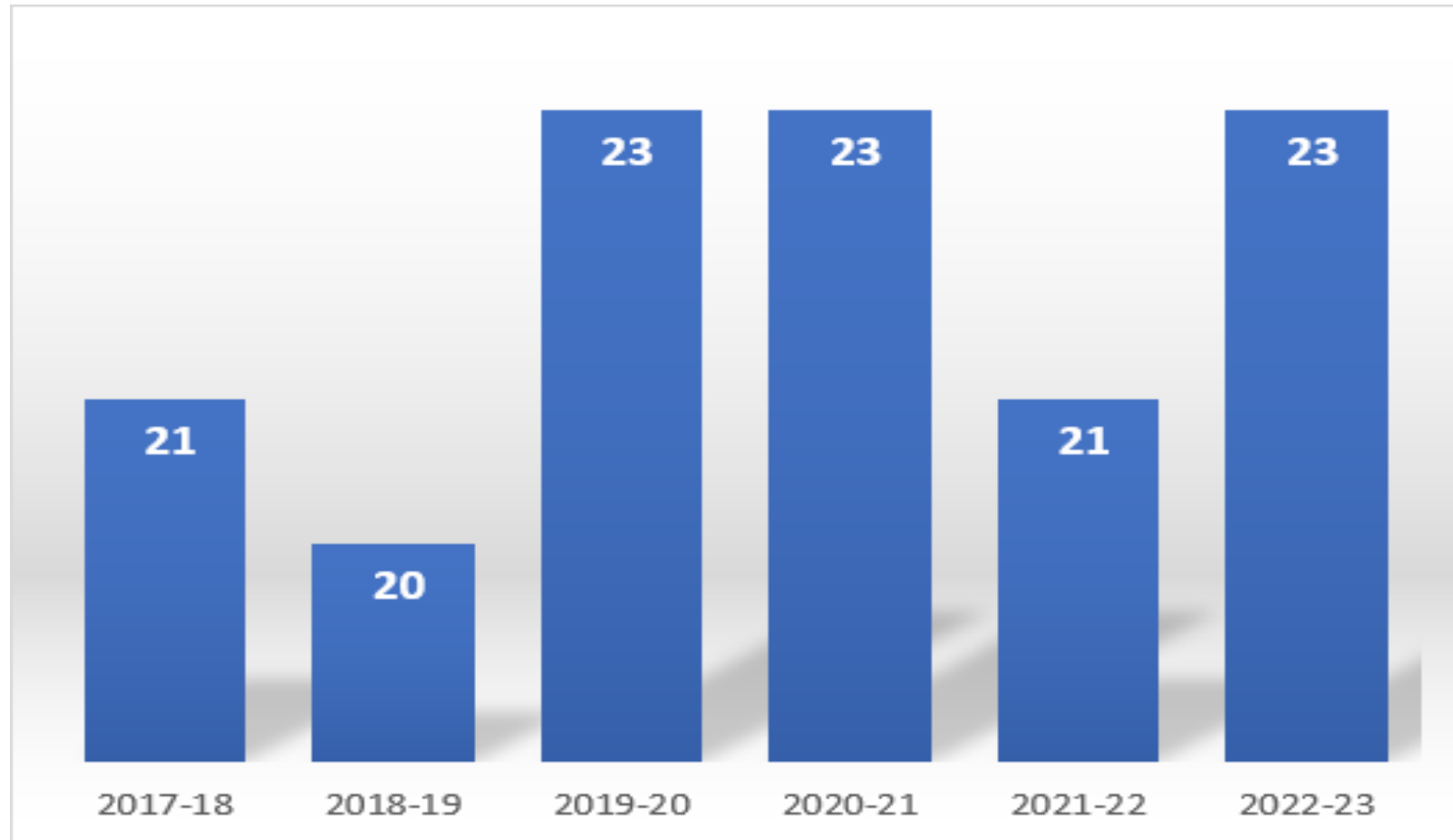


Summer Nutrition Programs 2018 - 2022



At-Risk After School Meal Program 2017 - 2022

Twenty-three additional SFAs are in the process of enrolling in the ARAM (administered by the NC DHHS) for the 2022 – 2023 school year



School Nutrition Programs are intended for ALL students

Student eligibility for free or reduced-price meal assistance is based on:

1. **Household application** - indicating household size and income; signed by the Head of Household.
2. **Direct Certification*** - children are certified for free or reduced-price meals based on their households receiving assistance under the SNAP, Cash Assistance (formerly TANF) and **some Medicaid programs.**
3. **Categorical Eligibility*** – homeless, runaway, migrant, foster, and Head Start students (and their siblings) are “automatically eligible” for free school meals.

***Based on documentation provided by a means-tested third party.**

Student Eligibility/Benefits

| Eligibility | Qualifications | Meal Benefit* |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Free Meals (application, DC or CE) | 130% of poverty and below | \$2.67 (breakfast) \$4.43 (lunch) |
| Reduced-Price Meals | 131% - 185% of poverty | \$2.37 (breakfast) \$4.03 (lunch) |
| Paid Meals | 186% of poverty or greater | \$0.50 (breakfast) \$0.87 (lunch) *Severe need rate |

- **60% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals**
- **Average cost of a Student Paid Breakfast is \$1.50 (high \$2.25)**
- **Average cost of a Student Paid Lunch is \$3.85 (high \$4.35)**

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

CEP is a universal meal plan under the **NSLP** that permits eligible districts and schools to provide meals to all students at no cost to the student regardless of economic status. CEP focuses on high poverty schools/districts as a means of addressing disparities in income for children who do not qualify for meal benefits and reducing the administrative burden for families and schools.

Participating Schools/Districts:

- ✓ Required to provide breakfast and lunch
- ✓ Prohibited from collecting household applications
- ✓ Required to establish an **Identified Student Percentage (ISP)** based on April 1 data
- ✓ Must claim reimbursement based on ISP X multiplier
- ✓ Must cover any additional costs from non-Federal funds

Identified Student Percentage (ISP)*

Percent of students Directly Certified and Categorically Eligible for Free meal benefits.

Examples: Three NC Schools

1,000 ADM with 400 DC + 300 CE = 70% ISP

1,000 ADM with 250 DC + 275 CE = 52.5% ISP

1,000 ADM with 150 DC + 250 CE = 40% ISP

***NOTE: The ISP is NOT the SAME as the percentage of students eligible for Free or Reduced-price meals.**

CEP and Reimbursement ISP and the USDA Multiplier Effect (1.6)



School A

1,000 ADM

650 students Directly Certified

50 students Categorically Eligible

700

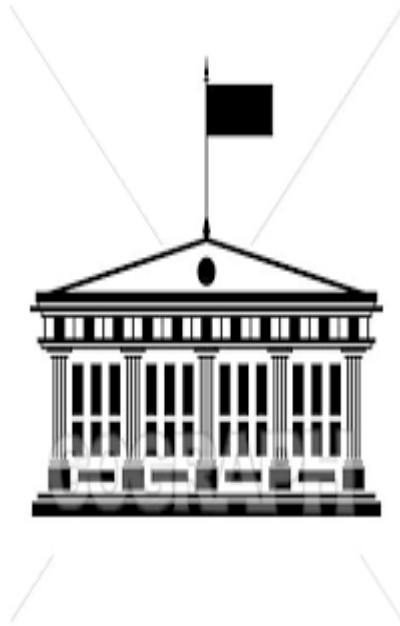
$700 / 1,000 = \text{ISP of } .70 \text{ or } 70\%$

$.70 \times 1.6 \text{ (USDA Multiplier)} = 112$

ALL meals reimbursed at the **FREE** rate of \$4.43

\$2,215 daily reimbursement

CEP and Reimbursement - ISP and the USDA Multiplier Effect (1.6)



gg106826024 www.gograph.com

School B

1,000 ADM

350 students Directly Certified

50 students Categorically Eligible

400

$400 / 1,000 = \text{ISP of } .40 \text{ or } 40\%$

$.40 \times 1.6 \text{ (USDA Multiplier)} = .64 \text{ or } 64\%$

64% of meals reimbursed at the **FREE** rate of \$4.43

36% of meals reimbursed at the **PAID** rate of \$0.87

\$1,574.20 daily reimbursement

An ISP of 62.5% is the “break even” point for the CEP.

School/District Participation in the CEP

| School Year | District-wide | | Partial | | Total | |
|-------------|---------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Districts | Schools | Districts | Schools | Districts | Schools |
| SY 22 – 23 | 70 | 420 | 41 | 554 | 111 | 974 |
| SY 21 – 22 | 61 | 368 | 41 | 512 | 102 | 880 |
| SY 20 – 21 | 59 | 352 | 45 | 603 | 104 | 995 |
| SY 19 – 20 | 57 | 299 | 47 | 648 | 104 | 947 |
| SY 18 – 19 | 51 | 266 | 52 | 616 | 102 | 882 |
| SY 17 – 18 | 52 | 258 | 50 | 654 | 102 | 912 |
| SY 16 – 17 | 50 | 284 | 47 | 544 | 97 | 828 |
| SY 15 – 16 | 48 | 216 | 45 | 526 | 83 | 742 |
| SY14 – 15 | 32 | 208 | 36 | 444 | 68 | 652 |

Continued concern for students of “economically distressed” households

- Households with incomes between 185% - 225% of poverty.
- Students do not qualify for meal benefits.
- Students often may not have meal money to pay the Paid meal price of \$3.85 (avg.) per meal.
- Students may have no alternative but to charge meals or be denied meals depending upon the PSU’s meal charge policy.
- **Current uncollected student meal debt is an unprecedented \$1.3 Million**



Congressional Reauthorization of School Nutrition Programs

- Proposes to strengthen the CEP by increasing the multiplier from 1.6% to 2.5%; any school/district with 40% ISP would be able to provide meals at no cost to all students
- Raises the Federal reimbursement for School Meals by \$.10
- Provides commodities for School Breakfast
- Provides funding support for School Nutrition Program infrastructure
- Provides overdue program simplifications

Note: DPI has a mechanism to collect economically disadvantaged data

*Thank you
for your participation
in today's panel!*