

Food For Thought: Expanding School Breakfast to NJ Students



Somerset County

2014 Rank

9

2013 Rank: 20

Recognizing that hunger is a major barrier to learning, New Jersey school leaders have made great progress in recent years in serving breakfast to more low-income students. From 2010 to 2014, New Jersey schools posted a 55 percent increase in the number of low-income students eating breakfast at school, primarily by serving “breakfast after the bell,” usually in the classroom. While encouraging, more than 300,000 NJ students are still missing out on this morning meal that can help them concentrate and learn.

To help identify districts with low participation that would benefit from more effective breakfast programs, Advocates for Children of New Jersey provides this district-by-district breakdown of breakfast participation rates and the additional federal dollars districts would receive if 100 percent of eligible children participated.

School Breakfast Participation, May 2014

School District	# of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Breakfast	Eligible Students as % of Total Enrollment	% of Eligible Students Receiving Breakfast	# Eligible Students NOT Receiving Breakfast	Total Possible Federal Reimbursement*
Bound Brook	1,258	73	82	224	\$73,613
Central Jersey College Prep Charter School	130	42	59	53	\$15,817
Franklin Township	3,581	47	40	2,141	\$705,923
Manville	648	47	19	522	\$169,295
North Plainfield	2,185	67	22	1,709	\$565,607
Somerville	519	21	22	406	\$112,273
South Bound Brook	214	47	15	181	\$58,282
TOTAL/AVERAGE	8,534	50	39	5,235	\$1,700,810

Note: This chart excludes school districts with fewer than 20 percent eligible students. This chart excludes data from the Special Services Commission and vocational districts because accurate data were not available for these types of districts.

* This represents the federal dollars districts would receive if every eligible child received a school breakfast all 180 days of the school year. These funds can only be used for breakfast expenses.

Sources: New Jersey Departments of Education and Agriculture, compiled by Advocates for Children of New Jersey.

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Join the campaign to expand school breakfast in New Jersey...

A growing number of New Jersey school districts are adopting innovative approaches to serving breakfast to children in school. These districts have met logistical concerns over instructional time and clean-up. School officials that serve “breakfast after the bell” report significant increases in participation rates and improved student behavior and performance. Plus, these districts are claiming more federal dollars to feed hungry kids.

ACNJ provides this district-level data on school breakfast participation to assist school officials and advocates in implementing more effective breakfast programs. ACNJ is a leader of the NJ Food for Thought School Breakfast Campaign, which has compiled a host of advocacy and implementation resources on its website, **www.njschoolbreakfast.org**.

You can use this information to influence change in your community by presenting the report and data to your:

- School board
- Superintendent, business administrator and food services coordinator
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA or PTO)
- Local community and government agencies that can become partners in your campaign

You can also help by becoming a supporter of ACNJ’s Food for Thought School Breakfast Campaign at www.njschoolbreakfast.org . Need help or more info? E-mail Reginald Dorsey at rdorsey.acnj.org.