

NJ School Breakfast Snapshot: The Underachievers



Over the past few years, New Jersey schools have achieved significant progress in providing breakfast to more low-income students, with a 55 percent increase from 2010 to 2014. However, in May 2014, 49 New Jersey school districts with high levels of poverty continued to lag in providing breakfast to their students. As of May 2014, the districts listed below had at least half of their students eligible for free- or reduced-price breakfast, but less than 31 percent receiving this all-important morning meal.

In these districts alone, close to 50,000 of New Jersey's needy children did not receive school breakfast. If these 49 districts fed all eligible students each school day, the districts would receive an estimated total of \$16 million more in federal funds to provide school breakfast each year — and their students would have a healthy morning meal that can help them succeed in school. (These funds

can only be used for breakfast — not to offset other educational expenses).

The way to achieve this result is to provide breakfast during the first few minutes of the school day, rather than before school when most students have not yet arrived. Known as “breakfast after the bell,” this approach significantly increases student participation in this federal child nutrition program. School districts across New Jersey have demonstrated that this approach is very do-able, quickly becomes part of the morning routine and improves student behavior and performance.

(Note: The following “underachievers” list was corrected to exclude Seaside Heights, which ACNJ erroneously reported had fed significantly fewer students. ACNJ regrets the error. In addition, Hillside fed slightly more children, as reflected in this chart, but still fed fewer than 31 percent of eligible students).

School Breakfast Underachievers

County	School District	# of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Breakfast	Eligible Students as % of Total Enrollment	% of Eligible Students Receiving Breakfast	# of Eligible Students NOT Receiving School Breakfast	Total Possible Federal Reimbursement**
Camden	Brooklawn	190	56	5	181	\$60,928
Hudson	Guttenberg	799	78	7	743	\$248,989
Essex	Robert Treat Academy Charter School	431	72	7	400	\$132,408
Hudson	Kearny	3,385	57	9	3,080	\$1,017,900
Bergen	Lodi	2,075	63	10	1,866	\$607,832
Hudson	Soaring Heights Charter School	116	52	10	104	\$33,167
Essex	Belleville	2,603	59	10	2,332	\$765,258
Monmouth	Keyport	576	53	10	516	\$170,764
Bergen	Fairview	978	77	11	870	\$291,168
Passaic	Haledon	728	72	11	647	\$214,925
Passaic	Prospect Park	743	85	14	639	\$214,202
Middlesex	Carteret	2,450	65	15	2,087	\$686,075
Cape May	North Wildwood	160	50	16	135	\$45,063

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Burlington	Riverside	779	54	16	652	\$216,140
Essex	North Star Academy Charter School Of Newark	2,246	84	18	1,847	\$608,855
Passaic	Clifton	6,109	56	18	4,994	\$1,653,383
Union	Rahway	2,122	57	18	1,731	\$568,196
Union	Linden	3,570	59	19	2,906	\$953,035
Union	Queen City Academy Charter School	199	80	19	161	\$52,936
Passaic	John P Holland Charter School*	177	93	19	143	\$47,407
Passaic	Passaic Arts And Science Charter School	353	84	19	285	\$92,961
Essex	Burch Charter School Of Excellence	294	86	20	235	\$78,057
Camden	Camden Academy Charter High	367	83	20	292	\$97,448
Essex	Merit Prep Charter School Of Newark*	171	74	20	136	\$45,457
Monmouth	Highlands	111	64	21	88	\$29,290
Monmouth	Bradley Beach	148	50	21	117	\$38,561
Burlington	Edgewater Park	464	53	21	366	\$121,489
Somerset	North Plainfield	2,185	67	22	1,709	\$565,607
Hudson	University Academy Charter School	335	79	22	261	\$85,552
Bergen	Englewood On The Palisades Charter School	103	52	22	80	\$26,352
Essex	Visions Academy Charter School	252	59	23	195	\$65,637
Morris	Dover	2,116	69	23	1,634	\$539,328
Monmouth	Belmar	331	59	23	255	\$85,941
Union	Hillside	2,031	68	23	1,563	\$509,692
Camden	Camden's Promise Charter School	414	92	23	317	\$105,737
Camden	Woodlynne	344	93	24	260	\$87,534
Burlington	Burlington	1,063	61	24	803	\$268,915
Ocean	Ocean Gate	77	57	25	58	\$19,138
Atlantic	Brigantine	380	53	25	286	\$94,273
Hudson	Jersey City Golden Door	319	66	25	238	\$78,592
Essex	Newark Prep	255	84	25	190	\$63,288
Union	Plainfield	6,274	88	26	4,650	\$1,562,401
Bergen	Cliffside Park	1,805	62	26	1,330	\$437,392
Middlesex	Academy For Urban Leadership Charter School	231	58	26	170	\$56,430
Mercer	Foundation Academy Charter School	465	85	27	341	\$111,364
Camden	Clementon	294	64	27	214	\$69,347
Gloucester	Glassboro	1,096	50	29	777	\$256,613
Bergen	Garfield	3,357	71	29	2,377	\$782,006
Hudson	North Bergen	4,963	62	30	3,471	\$1,154,914
	Total/Average	61,031	65	20	48,729	\$16,117,949

*Data as of April 2014

** Based on all eligible students eating breakfast 180 school days.