



# NJ Food for Thought Campaign

## Healthy Food. Strong Kids.

### School Breakfast Participation by County/District 2017

#### Burlington County Profile 2017

**2017 Rank: 16**  
2016 Rank: 16

School District	# of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Breakfast	Eligible Students as % of Total Enrollment	% Eligible Students Served Breakfast	# Eligible Students NOT Receiving Breakfast	Total Possible Federal Reimbursement*
<b>Burlington County Total</b>	<b>12,707</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8,383</b>	<b>\$2,754,097</b>
Bass River	27	26	37	17	\$5,017
Benjamin Banneker Prep Charter School	112	64	16	94	\$32,951
Beverly**	228	77	40	137	\$50,306
Burlington City	1,040	61	28	750	\$270,864
Burlington Township	980	25	27	719	\$211,696
Delanco	167	42	25	126	\$44,917
Delran	747	25	36	480	\$141,102
Edgewater Park	380	45	32	258	\$93,172
Florence	402	25	41	238	\$70,880
Lumberton	307	23	34	203	\$60,701
Maple Shade	946	44	43	538	\$188,806
Mount Holly	568	57	39	345	\$124,254
New Hanover	85	45	67	28	\$10,066
North Hanover	382	32	20	304	\$83,743
Palmyra	380	43	22	296	\$105,721
Pemberton	1,880	38	42	1,095	\$323,919
Rancocas Valley Regional	548	26	18	451	\$134,282

Riverside	808	58	17	674	\$241,553
Southampton	157	22	26	116	\$34,085
Westampton	260	27	21	205	\$59,859
Willingboro	2,273	63	44	1,281	\$458,017
Woodland	30	20	7	28	\$8,186

### Notes and Sources

Note: This chart excludes school districts with fewer than 20 percent eligible students.

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

\*\*Indicates full participation in the Community Eligibility Provisison (CEP).

For more information, visit [www.njfoodforthought.org](http://www.njfoodforthought.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Burlington Remains 16<sup>th</sup> Place for School Breakfast Participation**

Burlington County remained at 16<sup>th</sup> place statewide for the number of low-income children eating breakfast at school, with the county's public schools feeding about one-third of low-income children, according to county profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey.

Thirty-nine percent of Burlington County students are eligible to receive free and reduced-priced school meals. Just 34 percent actually received breakfast at school in April 2017, compared to 36 percent the year before.

Burlington County's rate is lower than the statewide average of 44 percent. More than 8,300 eligible students are still missing out on a morning meal.

Burlington County's student participation rates ranged from a high of 67 percent in New Hanover to a low of 7 percent in Woodland.

Statewide, New Jersey has achieved a 73 percent increase in the number of low-income students receiving a healthy breakfast at school, rising from about 136,000 children in October 2010 to 235,000 in April 2017. This is primarily due to more districts serving "breakfast after the bell" now than in 2010.

Despite this progress, for the first time since the 2011 launch of the New Jersey Food for Thought Campaign, co-led by ACNJ and the New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition, school breakfast participation dropped 2 percent statewide from April 2016 to April 2017.

"This is very concerning," said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which co-leads the statewide campaign to end childhood hunger in the Garden State. "Many schools have made incredible progress, proving that breakfast after the bell is doable. We must continue that progress – not slide backward and leave more children hungry."

Zalkind noted that more than 300,000 New Jersey children who are qualified and enrolled to receive school breakfast were not served in April 2017. That's because many districts continue to serve breakfast before school – when most children have not yet arrived.

The decrease in participation is likely due to some districts, especially large urban ones, rolling back breakfast after the bell. This approach, when breakfast is typically served during the first few minutes of the school day and is offered to all children, eliminates stigma and significantly boosts participation.

In addition to missing the chance to ensure all students begin their school day with the nutrition they need to concentrate and learn, New Jersey districts are leaving an estimated \$89 million in federal funds on the table, according to ACNJ's report. Districts are reimbursed for each meal served, so increasing participation also drives up federal dollars coming directly back to New Jersey schools to feed hungry students.

In fact, if Burlington County achieved 100 percent participation, the county's school districts would receive more than \$2.7 million in additional federal funding to provide school breakfast to students, according to ACNJ's analysis.

ACNJ today also released its 7<sup>th</sup> annual NJ Food for Thought School Breakfast Report -- a statewide look at school breakfast participation -- along with the district-level data.

ACNJ releases district-level data to help school and local officials, county leaders, parents and others identify districts that are doing well on this front – and those that need to rise up to meet the school breakfast challenge.

"We urge local, county and state officials and advocates to use these data to implement breakfast after the bell in underachieving districts," Zalkind said. "Expanding school breakfast makes sense for children, schools, families and the state as a whole."

"New Jersey spends billions of dollars each year on public education," added Adele LaTourette, director, New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition. "Simply changing breakfast service to after the bell leverages that investment so that all students have the nutrition they need to concentrate, learn and succeed in school."

The NJ Food for Thought Campaign is a statewide effort to combat childhood hunger by increasing participation in federal child nutrition programs. The coalition includes New Jersey anti-hunger, education and health organizations, the New Jersey Departments of Agriculture, Education and Health and child advocates. The Food Research Action Center and the American Dairy Association North East are the campaign's national partners.

**For more information, visit [www.njfoodforthought.org](http://www.njfoodforthought.org).**

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Advocates for Children of New Jersey is a statewide, non-profit child research and action organization committed to ensuring that every child has the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.