



School Breakfast Underachievers

Another factor contributing to New Jersey's lack of progress on school breakfast participation are high-poverty districts that continue to resist the change to serving breakfast after the bell, resulting in very low student participation in these districts.

This year's "School Breakfast Underachievers" list shows 46 districts where at least half of students lived in low-income families, but fewer than one-third of these students, who are already enrolled in the program, were receiving breakfast.

Most of these districts have been on this list for years, despite overwhelming evidence that breakfast after the bell works in dozens of high-poverty districts across New Jersey. In many cases, New Jersey Food for Thought Campaign partners have attempted to engage and assist school leaders in changing the way they serve breakfast but have been unsuccessful.

In these districts alone, nearly 43,000 of New Jersey's neediest children did not receive school breakfast, harming their chances for school success.

If all of these low-income students received breakfast each school day, these districts would collect an estimated \$15 million more in federal funding to support school breakfast each year. This money would go directly to feeding hungry students, combating the childhood hunger that impedes learning. (These funds can only be used for school breakfast and cannot offset other educational expenses.)

On ACNJ's Underachievers List, seven districts reported feeding 10 percent or fewer of their low-income students. These were: Queen City Academy Charter School, Guttenberg, Kearny, Lodi, Englewood on the Palisades Charter School, Trenton STEM-to-Civics Charter School and Fairview. The rest served between 11 and 30 percent of students on an average day in April 2017.

Resistance from school leaders, principals and teachers remains a major barrier to making this very doable change. It is especially important for superintendents to provide leadership on this front. School officials with effective programs say that superintendent support is essential to school breakfast success.

School Breakfast Underachievers

County	School District	# of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Breakfast	Eligible Students as % of Total Enrollment	% Eligible Students Served	# Eligible Students NOT Served Breakfast	Total Possible Federal Reimbursement*
Union	Queen City Academy Charter School	268	83	5	254	\$92,135
Hudson	Guttenberg	828	81	7	773	\$279,796
Hudson	Kearny	3,176	56	7	2,947	\$1,054,652
Bergen	Lodi	1,830	58	8	1,676	\$593,152
Bergen	Englewood on the Palisades Charter School	140	56	9	128	\$45,868
Mercer	Trenton STEM-to-Civics Charter School	190	90	9	173	\$62,014
Bergen	Fairview	1,094	79	10	990	\$358,128
Essex	Newark Prep Charter School**	429	100	11	381	\$139,903
Essex	Belleville	2,764	62	12	2,446	\$869,530
Cape May	North Wildwood	135	53	12	119	\$43,049
Essex	Paulo Freire Charter School	145	54	12	127	\$46,094
Essex	The Gray Charter School	227	65	13	198	\$70,708
Monmouth	Keyport	564	54	14	487	\$174,641

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Passaic	Prospect Park**	852	92	15	721	\$264,751
Essex	People's Preparatory Charter High School**	364	96	15	308	\$113,098
Hudson	M.E.T.S Charter School	372	72	16	314	\$112,331
Hudson	Great Futures Charter High School for the Health Sciences	192	67	16	162	\$58,892
Middlesex	Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School	407	82	16	343	\$123,412
Burlington	Benjamin Banneker Prep Charter School	112	64	16	94	\$32,951
Hudson	Jersey City Golden Door Charter School	332	60	16	278	\$99,220
Burlington	Riverside	808	58	17	674	\$241,553
Passaic	Clifton	6,188	57	17	5,123	\$1,850,224
Essex	Robert Treat Academy Charter School	508	74	18	417	\$148,208
Bergen	Palisades Park	757	50	18	621	\$222,523
Hudson	Hudson Arts and Science Charter School	206	58	19	166	\$59,281
Somerset	Manville	710	50	20	570	\$202,608
Bergen	Cliffside Park	1,776	58	20	1,416	\$509,620
Union	Linden	3,416	56	21	2,715	\$966,983
Morris	Wharton	432	55	22	336	\$119,221
Morris	Dover	2,501	78	23	1,928	\$687,874
Hudson	Hoboken	898	52	23	688	\$248,530
Camden	Woodlynne **	384	100	23	294	\$107,957
Hudson	University Academy Charter School	312	73	24	238	\$84,856
Hudson	Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School	346	89	24	262	\$94,748
Mercer	Paul Robeson Charter School	359	94	26	264	\$95,699
Essex	Marion P. Thomas Charter School	1,199	90	27	871	\$315,673
Hudson	North Bergen	5,132	67	27	3,724	\$1,342,559
Bergen	Garfield	3,182	67	28	2,297	\$817,322
Burlington	Burlington City	1,040	61	28	750	\$270,864
Camden	Bellmawr	633	53	28	455	\$161,838
Monmouth	Neptune City	191	59	28	137	\$48,740
Somerset	North Plainfield	2,122	66	29	1,509	\$538,396
Essex	North Star Academy	3,901	87	29	2,770	\$989,928
Essex	University Heights Charter School**	605	87	29	429	\$157,529
Camden	Pine Hill	1,045	56	30	732	\$261,338
Atlantic	Somers Point	629	67	30	438	\$158,242
	Total/Average	53,699	65	20	42,741	\$15,336,637

NOTE: Supplemental data for People's Preparatory Charter High School came directly from school officials. The 2016-17 school year was the last operational year for Newark Prep Charter School and Paulo Freire Charter School.

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

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