



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

CEP Meal Program Incentive Report

H259 – 2023 Appropriations Act

S.L. 2023 – 134, sec.7.59(g)

Date Due: January 1, 2026

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2025-2026

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H 259-2023 Appropriations ACT, SL 2023 – 134

CEP Meal Incentive Program

Section 7.59 of S.L. 2023 – 134 required the North Carolina Department of Public (NCDPI) to establish the Community Eligibility Provision Meal Program Incentive for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal biennium to expand public school participation in the Federally assisted Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to increase the number of students with access to healthy school meals, including breakfast and lunch, at no cost to students. The incentive program is to be available to eligible public school units for the 2024 –2025 fiscal year.

This report provides information on program activities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Since no schools were participating in the program during that fiscal year, this report will provide information on NCDPI activities to establish and launch the program.

FY 2024-2025 CEP Meal Incentive Program Activities

In accordance with Session Law, a public school unit was considered eligible to participate in the incentive program if the school qualified for the CEP but did not participate in the CEP during the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year. The NCDPI developed an application process that included all elements established in Session Law, including the name of the school, the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for the school for the 2024 – 2025 school year, the projected number of students enrolled in the school for the 2024 – 2025 school year and meal participation rates for breakfast and lunch for the 2024 – 2025 school year. The application enabled the public school units to apply for their eligible school sites to be considered for the meal incentive program. Public school units submitted applications in a timely manner, and the applications were reviewed by the Office of School Nutrition. Data submitted on the application was verified for accuracy using the School Nutrition Technology System, which is the authoritative source for School Nutrition data elements.

Schools were selected for participation in the pilot program in collaboration with the public school units. Public school units were required to make decisions concerning the grouping of eligible schools in order to generate maximum Federal funds from the CEP. Consistent with Session Law, the Office of School Nutrition prioritized the award of CEP Meal Incentive Grant funds to schools with an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) greater than 55%, followed by schools that would draw the greatest amount of Federal CEP funds. Any school selected for the meal incentive program was required to offer innovative breakfast options, including breakfast after the bell and where possible, in the classroom. Grant funds are intended to provide State funding reimbursement that is not funded by Federal school nutrition funds.

Based on the criteria established in Session Law, 157 schools (3 Charters and 154 schools from regular districts) were eligible and approved by the Office of School Nutrition to utilize the CEP Meal Incentive Program funds in SY 2024 – 2025. It is estimated that 48,550 students enrolled in the 157 participating schools who were classified as eligible for paid meals, are now eligible to receive breakfast and lunch meals at school at no cost to the student. The amount of federal and state funding provided to participating public school units and schools received was \$39,943,871 in Federal Lunch and Breakfast Reimbursement and \$3,898,037 in State Incentive Program reimbursement.

In addition, participating schools on average saw small but positive gains in tested subjects from 2024 to 2025. Average assessment scores rose by about 0.5 points. A little over half of schools improved (55%), and roughly 30% posted gains of three points or more. The biggest gains typically came from schools with lower scores in 2024. Results also varied by district, with several (e.g., Stanly, Nash, Dare, Moore) posting noticeably stronger average gains among participating schools. Graduation rates also saw a positive increase. Among the 31 participating high schools with rates reported in both years, the average graduation rate rose from about 85.8% to 86.8%, with the typical school increasing by about 1.6 percentage points.

While these are promising early signals, they're still descriptive and should not be interpreted as evidence of the program's effectiveness. We do not yet separate the effect of the CEP meal incentive program from other local efforts or normal year-to-year shifts. Future analysis should compare these schools to similar, eligible non-participating schools and pair outcomes with changes in breakfast/lunch participation and attendance. Finally, given the limited timeframe, additional years of implementation and analysis will be important to fully understand the potential long-term impact of the CEP meal program incentive on student outcomes.

School Code	PSU Code	PSU Name	School Code	School Name	2024 Assessment Data	2024 Graduation Rate	2025 Assessment Data	2025 Graduation Rate
10308	10	Alamance-Burlington Schools	308	Altamahaw Ossipee Elem	63.1	n/a	56.5	n/a
10324	10	Alamance-Burlington Schools	324	Eastern Alamance High	41.1	92.5	46.0	89.3
10340	10	Alamance-Burlington Schools	340	Elon Elementary	55.1	n/a	55.8	n/a
10346	10	Alamance-Burlington Schools	346	B Everett Jordan Elem	36.5	n/a	35.6	n/a
10362	10	Alamance-Burlington Schools	362	Marvin B Smith Elementary	66.6	n/a	67.3	n/a
10396	10	Alamance-Burlington Schools	396	Walter M Williams High	42.8	87.1	42.2	81.1
10406	10	Alamance-Burlington Schools	406	Woodlawn Middle	40.9	n/a	40.0	n/a
160304	160	Carteret County Public Schools	304	Atlantic Elementary	78.6	n/a	76.9	n/a
160306	160	Carteret County	306	Bogue Sound Elementary	69.9	n/a	75.7	n/a

		Public Schools						
160308	160	Carteret County Public Schools	308	Beaufort Elementary	66.9	n/a	69.2	n/a
160310	160	Carteret County Public Schools	310	Beaufort Middle	57.9	n/a	61.4	n/a
160313	160	Carteret County Public Schools	313	East Carteret High	71.6	86.1	74.8	89.4
160316	160	Carteret County Public Schools	316	Harkers Island Elementary	65.2	n/a	72.0	n/a
160317	160	Carteret County Public Schools	317	Morehead Elem at Camp Glenn	59.9	n/a	61.2	n/a
160318	160	Carteret County Public Schools	318	Morehead City Middle	64.0	n/a	64.6	n/a
160322	160	Carteret County Public Schools	322	Morehead City Primary	68.6	n/a	62.2	n/a
160324	160	Carteret County Public Schools	324	Newport Elementary	62.3	n/a	61.5	n/a
160326	160	Carteret County Public Schools	326	Newport Middle	53.0	n/a	52.3	n/a
160332	160	Carteret County Public Schools	332	Smyrna Elementary	58.8	n/a	60.7	n/a
160344	160	Carteret County Public Schools	344	West Carteret High	57.1	74.6	59.6	82.7
180302	180	Catawba County Schools	302	Harry M Arndt Middle	54.4	n/a	51.6	n/a

180304	180	Catawba County Schools	304	Balls Creek Elementary	65.5	n/a	65.0	n/a
180312	180	Catawba County Schools	312	Banoak Elementary	63.7	n/a	61.9	n/a
180316	180	Catawba County Schools	316	Blackburn Elementary	59.9	n/a	62.4	n/a
180320	180	Catawba County Schools	320	Bunker Hill High	47.5	83.8	42.1	89.2
180326	180	Catawba County Schools	326	Charles H Tuttle Elementary	59.0	n/a	61.9	n/a
180336	180	Catawba County Schools	336	Clyde Campbell Elementary	64.0	n/a	65.0	n/a
180344	180	Catawba County Schools	344	Maiden Elementary	60.8	n/a	64.1	n/a
180346	180	Catawba County Schools	346	Maiden Middle	57.6	n/a	56.2	n/a
180356	180	Catawba County Schools	356	Mountain View Elementary	70.9	n/a	70.5	n/a
180360	180	Catawba County Schools	360	Oxford Elementary	42.1	n/a	42.7	n/a
180364	180	Catawba County Schools	364	River Bend Middle	46.1	n/a	49.2	n/a
180376	180	Catawba County Schools	376	Saint Stephens High	55.2	84.2	58.5	86.2
180379	180	Catawba County Schools	379	Snow Creek Elementary	61.5	n/a	63.3	n/a
180380	180	Catawba County Schools	380	Startown Elementary	57.0	n/a	56.8	n/a
190304	190	Chatham County Schools	304	Bennett Elementary	68.0	n/a	72.4	n/a
190308	190	Chatham County Schools	308	Bonlee Elementary	54.5	n/a	52.0	n/a

190310	190	Chatham County Schools	310	ONE Academy	33.3	72.7	32.8	67.9
190316	190	Chatham County Schools	316	Chatham Central High	52.9	85.7	62.9	90.3
190328	190	Chatham County Schools	328	Horton Middle	65.1	n/a	68.3	n/a
190332	190	Chatham County Schools	332	J S Waters Elementary	57.7	n/a	59.5	n/a
190336	190	Chatham County Schools	336	Jordan Matthews High	32.5	83.3	35.1	85.9
190340	190	Chatham County Schools	340	Moncure Elementary	55.9	n/a	54.0	n/a
190341	190	Chatham County Schools	341	North Chatham Elementary	70.7	n/a	72.4	n/a
190342	190	Chatham County Schools	342	Northwood High	61.1	92.2	59.8	91.6
190346	190	Chatham County Schools	346	Perry W Harrison Elementary	72.6	n/a	76.7	n/a
190348	190	Chatham County Schools	348	Pittsboro Elementary	66.8	n/a	66.2	n/a
190352	190	Chatham County Schools	352	Silk Hope Elementary	57.3	n/a	60.0	n/a
190501	190	Chatham County Schools	501	Chatham School of Science & Engineering	>95	>95	>95	>95
220306	220	Clay County Schools	306	Hayesville Primary School	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
220308	220	Clay County Schools	308	Hayesville Elementary	67.8	n/a	62.1	n/a
220310	220	Clay County Schools	310	Hayesville High	59.9	87.9	60.9	86.8
220312	220	Clay County Schools	312	Hayesville Middle	53.3	n/a	61.7	n/a
280302	280	Dare County Schools	302	Cape Hatteras Elementary	53.5	n/a	53.2	n/a

280304	280	Dare County Schools	304	Cape Hatteras Secondary	50.7	94.9	59.0	87.8
290309	290	Davidson County Schools	309	Central Davidson Middle	54.7	n/a	58.9	n/a
290322	290	Davidson County Schools	322	E Lawson Brown Middle	43.4	n/a	49.8	n/a
290376	290	Davidson County Schools	376	Tyro Middle	46.3	n/a	49.5	n/a
290389	290	Davidson County Schools	389	Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy	65.6	94.3	60.4	>95
320309	320	Durham Public Schools	309	J D Clement Early College HS	93.2	>95	94.0	>95
320312	320	Durham Public Schools	312	C E Jordan High	48.0	83.8	51.5	85.2
320313	320	Durham Public Schools	313	Easley Elementary	74.3	n/a	73.0	n/a
320314	320	Durham Public Schools	314	School for Creative Studies	48.8	92.9	46.9	94.1
320317	320	Durham Public Schools	317	City of Medicine Academy	81.1	>95	93.4	>95
320318	320	Durham Public Schools	318	Club Boulevard Elementary	67.2	n/a	56.6	n/a
320319	320	Durham Public Schools	319	Creekside Elementary	43.9	n/a	39.7	n/a
320323	320	Durham Public Schools	323	Durham Sch of the Arts	75.3	94.8	76.6	>95
320327	320	Durham Public Schools	327	Hope Valley Elementary	44.0	n/a	45.1	n/a
320332	320	Durham Public Schools	332	Forest View Elementary	45.7	n/a	48.8	n/a

320340	320	Durham Public Schools	340	Little River Elementary	47.2	n/a	55.8	n/a
320347	320	Durham Public Schools	347	George Watts Elementary	70.6	n/a	66.6	n/a
320348	320	Durham Public Schools	348	Mangum Elementary	73.3	n/a	75.1	n/a
320354	320	Durham Public Schools	354	Morehead Montessori	71.1	n/a	69.3	n/a
320356	320	Durham Public Schools	356	Northern High	25.9	81.4	36.5	77.5
320363	320	Durham Public Schools	363	E K Powe Elementary	54.1	n/a	50.9	n/a
320365	320	Durham Public Schools	365	Riverside High	39.5	82.6	39.2	75.6
320366	320	Durham Public Schools	366	Sherwood Githens Middle	48.5	n/a	49.3	n/a
320369	320	Durham Public Schools	369	Sandy Ridge Elementary	64.5	n/a	45.9	n/a
320370	320	Durham Public Schools	370	Rogers-Herr Middle	66.9	n/a	70.8	n/a
320372	320	Durham Public Schools	372	Southwest Elementary	60.8	n/a	63.1	n/a
320376	320	Durham Public Schools	376	Spring Valley Elementary School	48.0	n/a	53.1	n/a
32H000	32H	Research Triangle Charter	32H	Research Triangle Charter	43.5	n/a	39.0	n/a
490347	490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	347	Oakwood Middle IB School	75.1	n/a	75.9	n/a
500314	500	Jackson County Schools	314	Fairview Elementary	58.8	n/a	55.8	n/a
500323	500	Jackson County Schools	323	Jackson County	87.2	>95	78.1	>95

				Early College				
500332	500	Jackson County Schools	332	Scotts Creek Elementary	44.4	n/a	45.6	n/a
500340	500	Jackson County Schools	340	Smoky Mountain High	48.6	87.4	53.2	90.2
510324	510	Johnston County Schools	324	Clayton High	52.1	91.4	51.6	94.7
510327	510	Johnston County Schools	327	Cleveland High School	55.2	>95	56.7	>95
510373	510	Johnston County Schools	373	Powhatan Elementary	69.3	n/a	72.6	n/a
530314	530	Lee County Schools	314	East Lee Middle	40.1	n/a	36.1	n/a
530335	530	Lee County Schools	335	Lee Early College	92.3	>95	90.1	>95
530336	530	Lee County Schools	336	Lee County High	39.3	83.3	37.1	87.7
530341	530	Lee County Schools	341	SanLee Middle School	52.7	n/a	55.1	n/a
530343	530	Lee County Schools	343	Southern Lee High School	43.9	88.7	41.2	83.7
530346	530	Lee County Schools	346	Tramway Elementary	76.8	n/a	72.8	n/a
530356	530	Lee County Schools	356	West Lee Middle	31.9	n/a	42.0	n/a
600415	600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	415	Hopewell High	51.8	77.0	50.2	88.9
600490	600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	490	Olympic High School	38.7	70.6	41.9	78.7
630328	630	Moore County Schools	328	Highfalls Elementary	62.7	n/a	66.0	n/a
630368	630	Moore County Schools	368	West End Elementary	78.6	n/a	79.7	n/a
630373	630	Moore County Schools	373	West Pine Elementary School	64.5	n/a	69.9	n/a

630374	630	Moore County Schools	374	West Pine Middle	73.1	n/a	74.3	n/a
640320	640	Nash County Public Schools	320	Nash Central Middle	50.7	n/a	50.9	n/a
640324	640	Nash County Public Schools	324	Coopers Elementary	60.5	n/a	68.0	n/a
640346	640	Nash County Public Schools	346	Nash Central High	47.7	80.9	56.3	80.5
640347	640	Nash County Public Schools	347	N-RMS Middle College High	86.9	>95	92.3	>95
640350	640	Nash County Public Schools	350	Northern Nash High	45.9	83.8	54.2	91.3
640358	640	Nash County Public Schools	358	Red Oak Middle	45.0	n/a	40.5	n/a
640360	640	Nash County Public Schools	360	Red Oak Elementary	57.1	n/a	58.1	n/a
640362	640	Nash County Public Schools	362	Southern Nash Middle	46.8	n/a	50.1	n/a
640364	640	Nash County Public Schools	364	Southern Nash High	47.3	83.1	49.4	91.0
710323	710	Pender County Schools	323	North Topsail Elementary	78.2	n/a	75.7	n/a
710327	710	Pender County Schools	327	Pender Early College High School	>95	>95	94.4	>95
710347	710	Pender County Schools	347	South Topsail Elementary	72.7	n/a	68.8	n/a

710350	710	Pender County Schools	350	Surf City Elementary	69.7	n/a	63.5	n/a
73A000	73A	Bethel Hill Charter	73A	Bethel Hill Charter	75.0	n/a	74.2	n/a
78C000	78C	Old Main STREAM Academy	78C	Old Main STREAM Academy	61.8	n/a	66.7	n/a
840328	840	Stanly County Schools	328	North Stanly Middle School	43.6	n/a	55.0	n/a
840332	840	Stanly County Schools	332	North Stanly High	34.2	87.2	41.9	79.2
840350	840	Stanly County Schools	350	West Stanly Middle School	61.5	n/a	64.8	n/a
840356	840	Stanly County Schools	356	South Stanly High	35.5	>95	44.2	87.4
840358	840	Stanly County Schools	358	South Stanly Middle	47.5	n/a	49.0	n/a
840361	840	Stanly County Schools	361	Stanly Early College	88.2	>95	92.8	>95
840362	840	Stanly County Schools	362	Stanly STEM Early College	89.8	>95	89.9	>95
840368	840	Stanly County Schools	368	West Stanly High	52.9	91.5	65.2	91.1
850304	850	Stokes County Schools	304	Chestnut Grove Middle	61.2	n/a	59.7	n/a
850312	850	Stokes County Schools	312	Germanton Elementary	50.5	n/a	48.5	n/a
850314	850	Stokes County Schools	314	Mount Olive Elementary	62.3	n/a	70.9	n/a
850316	850	Stokes County Schools	316	King Elementary	54.6	n/a	40.6	n/a
850338	850	Stokes County Schools	338	Piney Grove Middle	60.0	n/a	62.9	n/a

850340	850	Stokes County Schools	340	Pinnacle Elementary	62.3	n/a	67.9	n/a
850342	850	Stokes County Schools	342	Poplar Springs Elementary	57.6	n/a	63.8	n/a
850354	850	Stokes County Schools	354	London Elementary	47.7	n/a	37.9	n/a
860316	860	Surry County Schools	316	East Surry High	62.4	83.7	61.8	92.5
860336	860	Surry County Schools	336	North Surry High	48.0	89.0	47.2	94.3
860352	860	Surry County Schools	352	Surry Central High	47.2	90.3	44.0	94.3
860354	860	Surry County Schools	354	Surry Early College High School of Design	88.4	>95	89.1	>95
920302	920	Wake County Schools	302	River Bend Elementary	53.2	n/a	47.6	n/a
920370	920	Wake County Schools	370	Centennial Campus Middle	36.0	n/a	34.8	n/a
920404	920	Wake County Schools	404	East Garner Middle	38.6	n/a	44.8	n/a
920417	920	Wake County Schools	417	Forest Pines Elementary	55.7	n/a	48.0	n/a
920512	920	Wake County Schools	512	North Garner Middle	41.7	n/a	41.8	n/a
920560	920	Wake County Schools	560	Smith Elementary	47.8	n/a	39.8	n/a
920570	920	Wake County Schools	570	Timber Drive Elementary	44.3	n/a	46.4	n/a
920600	920	Wake County Schools	600	Wendell Elementary	43.2	n/a	44.4	n/a
920601	920	Wake County Schools	601	Wendell Middle	43.0	n/a	40.0	n/a

920626	920	Wake County Schools	626	Yates Mill Elementary	56.1	n/a	57.1	n/a
990316	990	Yadkin County Schools	316	Fall Creek Elementary	66.9	n/a	66.5	n/a
990321	990	Yadkin County Schools	321	Forbush Middle School	54.3	n/a	55.1	n/a
995310	995	Yancey County Schools	310	Blue Ridge Elementary	56.4	n/a	52.8	n/a
995312	995	Yancey County Schools	312	Burnsville Elementary	50.7	n/a	48.1	n/a
995316	995	Yancey County Schools	316	Cane River Middle	67.0	n/a	55.1	n/a
995324	995	Yancey County Schools	324	East Yancey Middle	59.9	n/a	51.2	n/a
995328	995	Yancey County Schools	328	Micaville Elementary	59.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
995330	995	Yancey County Schools	330	Mountain Heritage High	63.9	87.2	53.3	90.2
995336	995	Yancey County Schools	336	South Toe Elementary	72.2	n/a	55.7	n/a