

School Meal Programs Prepared by the Joint Fiscal Office on 3/30/21

Table 1: Current Law- Existing programs available to serve school meals at no cost to Vermont families.

	Universal School Meal Programs		Student Aid for Schools Meals	
Federal School Meal Programs	Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)	Provision 2	“Free” NSLP, SBP	“Reduced Price” NSLP, SBP
Schools Enrolled	56	19	All schools	All schools
Students ¹	13,000	4,800	18,000	15,000
Qualification	40% of student body on free and reduced lunch program	All schools qualify	Students below 135% FPL, or any other means-tested program	Students between 135%-185% FPL
Funding ²	If 60% students are on free and reduced, then all federal funding If 40%-60% students are on free and reduced, then federal funding for 1.6 times students below 185% FPL and state/local sources for the remainder	School budgets fund costs not covered by free and reduced-price meals. This program simplifies administrative effort by maintaining ratio of free, reduced price, and paid categories for 4 years.	Federal money covers the total cost.	Federal funding covers 80% of the costs and the state of Vermont the remaining costs from the General Fund (About \$350,000 per year)

For more details on these programs and a list of schools, go to: https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-nutrition-2020-free-and-reduced-eligibility-report_3.pdf

Notes

1. The students listed under all categories are the rounded amount from the year 2019-2020 according to the Agency of Education. About 10,000 of the students in the Universal School Meal programs are also enrolled in the “free and reduced-price” programs, so that the schools can receive federal aid accordingly. These schools have some of the highest ratios of students enrolled in the free and reduced-price programs statewide.
2. About 75% of schools that use the Community Eligibility Provision have more than 60% of the student body that qualify for free and reduced lunch. Therefore, the federal government provides all of the funding for these programs.