

Virginia School Breakfast Report



FOOD

4 Thought



· VIRGINIA ·
Hunger Solutions

Additional information and
resources can be found at
www.vahungersolutions.org

Table of Contents

- 4 Introduction
- 5 Key Findings
- 6 The Many Benefits of School Breakfast
- 8 How the School Breakfast Program Works
- 9 Offering Breakfast Free to All
- 10 Breakfast After the Bell
- 12 Community Eligibility: Making High-Poverty Schools in Virginia Hunger Free
- 15 Conclusion

Foreword



The Virginia Department of Education's Office of School Nutrition Programs administers school and community meal programs that provide nutritious food so that all of Virginia's children are nourished and ready to learn.

National and state-level research shows that school breakfast decreases absenteeism, contributes to fewer nurse visits, and improves academic outcomes. For example, data in the 2017 Virginia Report on Alternative Breakfast Service Models showed increased pass rates on student assessment tests in reading and math. With food insecurity, wellness, and education being interconnected, school breakfast is one of the first and most important opportunities for schools to offer all students a healthy start to their school day.

For five years, Virginia Hunger Solutions and the Virginia Poverty Law Center have been promoting increased and expanded implementation of the School Breakfast Program, such as serving breakfast after the bell and implementing community eligibility when possible. Breakfast after the bell service models reach all students by making breakfast part of the school day, which addresses time constraints and decreases the stigma associated with school meals – two barriers to school breakfast participation – as well as increases access to healthy food. Community eligibility offers free school meals to all students at high-poverty schools. In school year 2017–2018, with implementation of the Medicaid Direct Certification Demonstration project, an additional 86 Virginia schools representing 37,000 students are participating in the Community Eligibility Provision. This brings the total to 341 schools in 47 school divisions, and three private schools, representing 156,500 students now receiving school meals at no cost.

Breakfast is often declared the most important meal of the day, an apple a day is said to keep the doctor away, and a healthy body supports a healthy mind are adages that translate into positive practices. Creating a healthy school environment is paramount in addressing student hunger, childhood obesity, and readiness to learn. This report provides the foundational data demonstrating the significance of school meal programs in meeting the needs of our children, our most worthy endeavor.

Dr. Sandy Curwood
Director, Office of School Nutrition Programs
Virginia Department of Education

Acknowledgments

Virginia Hunger Solutions is an initiative of the Virginia Poverty Law Center to fight hunger and improve the nutrition, health, and well-being of children and families throughout the Commonwealth who struggle with poverty.

This report was written by Kathleen Murphy of the Virginia Poverty Law Center, with assistance from staff of the Food Research & Action Center. Virginia Hunger Solutions gratefully acknowledges major support of its work to expand and improve the School Breakfast Program from the following:

- Anonymous;
- Food Research & Action Center;
- The Albertsons Companies Foundation;
- The Gayle & Rusty Boleman Foundation; and
- Walmart Foundation.

Virginia Hunger Solutions also acknowledges the indispensable roles played by its statewide partners:

- former first lady Dorothy McAuliffe;
- Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association;
- No Kid Hungry Virginia;
- Office of the Governor;
- School Nutrition Association of Virginia;
- Southeast United Dairy Industry Association;
- Virginia Department of Education; and
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth.

Introduction

In October 2017, schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia served breakfast to 63.7 low-income students for every 100 participating in lunch, an increase from 60.4 when compared to October 2016.

Increased school breakfast participation can be attributed to the implementation of two key strategies: adopting community eligibility, when possible, and implementing breakfast after the bell service models, such as breakfast in the classroom, “grab and go,” and second chance. Community eligibility makes it easier to offer free school meals to all students in high-poverty schools and school districts. Breakfast after the bell models reach more students by incorporating breakfast into the school day for everyone.

While gains are being made, and more schools are adopting the aforementioned best practices, there is still significant variation in school breakfast participation among the school divisions across Virginia. These methods effectively address barriers to school breakfast participation, such as late buses, long commutes, strained household budgets, and social stigma. By breaking down barriers to school breakfast participation, Virginia school districts build up all students’ potential for success by ensuring no one misses out on the academic, nutritional, and health benefits of school breakfast.

Students are not the only beneficiaries of school breakfast. Growing participation in the School Breakfast Program helps schools through the federal school meals reimbursements received. By not maximizing school breakfast participation, students not only miss out on the numerous benefits of the program, but schools leave millions of federal dollars on the table, funds that could improve and expand school breakfast programs.

This report examines key findings regarding school breakfast participation rates in Virginia’s 132 school divisions that participated in the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program during October 2017. In addition, this report informs about the School Breakfast Program’s benefits and how the program works; explains how to offer breakfast at no charge to all students; describes breakfast after the bell models, factors that influence breakfast participation; highlights top-performing school divisions; and provides school breakfast funding information.

“Since Grab and Go started I’ve noticed kids are more awake and focused.”

— Northumberland High student

Key Findings

263,149

Virginia students certified to receive free and reduced-price meals participated in school breakfast on an average school day, an increase of 23,710 students.

63.7

low-income students participated in school breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch, up from 60.4 in the previous school year.

341

high-poverty schools across 47 public school divisions (and 3 private schools) have adopted community eligibility, allowing them to offer free breakfast to all students.

The Many Benefits of School Breakfast



Children from low-income households are more likely to experience food insecurity. Research shows that access to school meals can improve students' dietary intake and give them the nutrition they need to start their school day focused and ready to learn. In short, school meals, such as school breakfast, are critical to the healthy development and academic achievement of students.

The academic and health benefits of school breakfast are undeniable. Participation in the School Breakfast Program has been linked with better test performance; fewer cases of tardiness, absenteeism, and disciplinary problems; fewer visits to the school nurse; improved overall dietary quality; and a lower probability of overweight and obesity. Low-income students in particular benefit from participating in school meal programs.

(For more information on the benefits of school breakfast, see the following briefs from the Food Research & Action Center: [Breakfast for Learning](#); [Breakfast for Health](#); and [The Connections Between Food Insecurity, the Federal Nutrition Programs, and Student Behavior](#).)

“The Grab and Go breakfast is a program that truly helps our most needy students get the nutrition they need so they can be successful in the classroom.”

— Northumberland High teacher

Better scores on standardized tests



Lower risk of childhood obesity

Better lifelong eating habits



The Benefits of Breakfast

Fewer absences, tardies & missed class time



Fewer behavioral & discipline problems



Fewer visits to the school nurse

How the School Breakfast Program Works

Who Operates the School Breakfast Program?

Any public school, nonprofit private school, or residential child care institution can participate in the national School Breakfast Program and receive federal funds for each breakfast served. The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and at the state level by the Virginia Department of Education.

Who can participate in the School Breakfast Program?

Any student attending a school that offers the program can eat breakfast. What the federal government covers, and what a student pays, depends on family income:

- Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible for free school meals.
- Children from families with incomes between 130 to 185 percent of the FPL qualify for reduced-price meals and can be charged no more than 30 cents per breakfast.
- Children from families with incomes above 185 percent of the FPL pay charges (referred to as “paid meals”), which are set by the school.

Other federal and, in some cases, state rules, however, make it possible to offer free meals to all children, or to all children in households with incomes under 185 percent of the FPL, especially in schools with high proportions of low-income children.

How are Children Certified for Free or Reduced-Price Meals?

Most children are certified for free or reduced-price meals via applications collected by the school district at the beginning of the school year or during the year. However, children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

(FDPIR), as well as foster youth, migrant, homeless, or runaway youth, and Head Start participants are “categorically eligible” (automatically eligible) for free school meals and can be certified without submitting a school meal application.

School districts are required to “directly certify” children in households participating in SNAP for free school meals through data matching of SNAP records with school enrollment lists. School districts also have the option of directly certifying other categorically eligible children as well. Some states also utilize income information from Medicaid to directly certify students as eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

Schools should also use data from the state to certify categorically eligible students and they can coordinate with other personnel, such as the school district’s homeless and migrant education liaisons, to obtain documentation to certify children for free school meals. Some categorically eligible children may be missed in this process, requiring the household to submit a school meals application. However, these households are not required to complete the income information section of the application.

How are School Districts Reimbursed?

The federal reimbursement rate the school receives for each meal served depends on whether a student is receiving free, reduced-price, or paid meals.

For the 2017–2018 school year, schools receive

- \$1.75 for each free breakfast served;
- \$1.45 for each reduced-price breakfast served; and
- \$0.30 for each paid breakfast served.

“Severe need” schools received an additional 34 cents for each free or reduced-price breakfast served. Schools are considered severe need if at least 40 percent of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were free or reduced-price.

Offering Breakfast Free to All



Many high-poverty schools are able to offer free meals for all students, with federal reimbursements based on the proportions of low-income children in the school. Providing breakfast at no charge to all students helps remove the stigma often associated with means-tested school breakfast (that breakfast in school is for “the poor kids”), opens the program to children from families that would struggle to pay the reduced-price copayment or the paid breakfast charges, and streamlines the implementation of breakfast in the classroom and other alternative service models. Schools can offer free breakfast to all students through the following options:

- **Community Eligibility Provision:** Community eligibility schools are high-poverty schools that offer free breakfast and lunch to all students and do not have to collect, process, or verify school meal applications, or keep track of meals by fee category, resulting in significant administrative savings and increased participation. For more information on community eligibility, see the next section, Community Eligibility: Making High-Poverty Schools in Virginia Hunger Free.
- **Provision 2:** Schools using Provision 2 (referring to a provision of the National School Lunch Act) do not need to collect, process, or verify school meal applications or keep track of meals by fee category for at least three out of every four years. Schools collect school meal applications and count and claim meals by fee category during year one of the multi-year cycle, called the “base year.” Those data then determine the federal reimbursement and are used for future years in the cycle. Provision 2 schools have the option to serve only breakfast or lunch, or both breakfast and lunch, to all students at no charge, and use economies of scale from increased participation and significant administrative savings to offset the cost of offering free meals to all students.
- **Nonpricing:** No fees are collected from students, while schools continue to receive federal reimbursements for the breakfasts served under the three-tier federal fee categories (free, reduced-price, and paid).

Breakfast After the Bell



Implementing a breakfast after the bell model that moves breakfast out of the school cafeteria and served before school starts – making it more accessible and a part of the regular school day – has proven to be the most successful strategy for increasing school breakfast participation. Breakfast after the bell overcomes timing, convenience, and stigma barriers that get in the way of children participating in school breakfast and are even more impactful when they are combined with offering breakfast at no charge to all students.

Schools generally use one or more of three options when offering breakfast after the bell:

Breakfast in the Classroom

Meals are delivered to and eaten in the classroom at the start of the school day.

“Grab and Go”

Children (particularly older students) can quickly grab the components of their breakfast from carts or kiosks in the hallway or the cafeteria line to eat in their classroom or in common areas.

Second Chance Breakfast

Students are offered a second chance to eat breakfast after homeroom or first period. Many middle and high school students are not hungry first thing in the morning. Serving these students breakfast after first period allows them ample time to arrive to class promptly, while still providing them the opportunity to get a nutritious start to the day.

State Breakfast Incentive Funding

Virginia has two different state funding streams to incentivize schools to increase breakfast participation. The funds are available to any school division as a per meal reimbursement for each breakfast served in excess of the participation baseline set in school year 2003–2004. Schools annually received 22 cents per

additional breakfast served over the baseline participation rate. In addition, elementary schools with 45 percent or more students qualifying for free and reduced-price meals are eligible to apply for a reimbursement of 5 cents per breakfast, if breakfast is served after the bell. For fiscal year 2018, \$5.4 million was appropriated in the state budget.

Breakfast

PARTICIPATION GROWTH



10

Top Divisions

with the highest percentage increase among free and reduced-price students

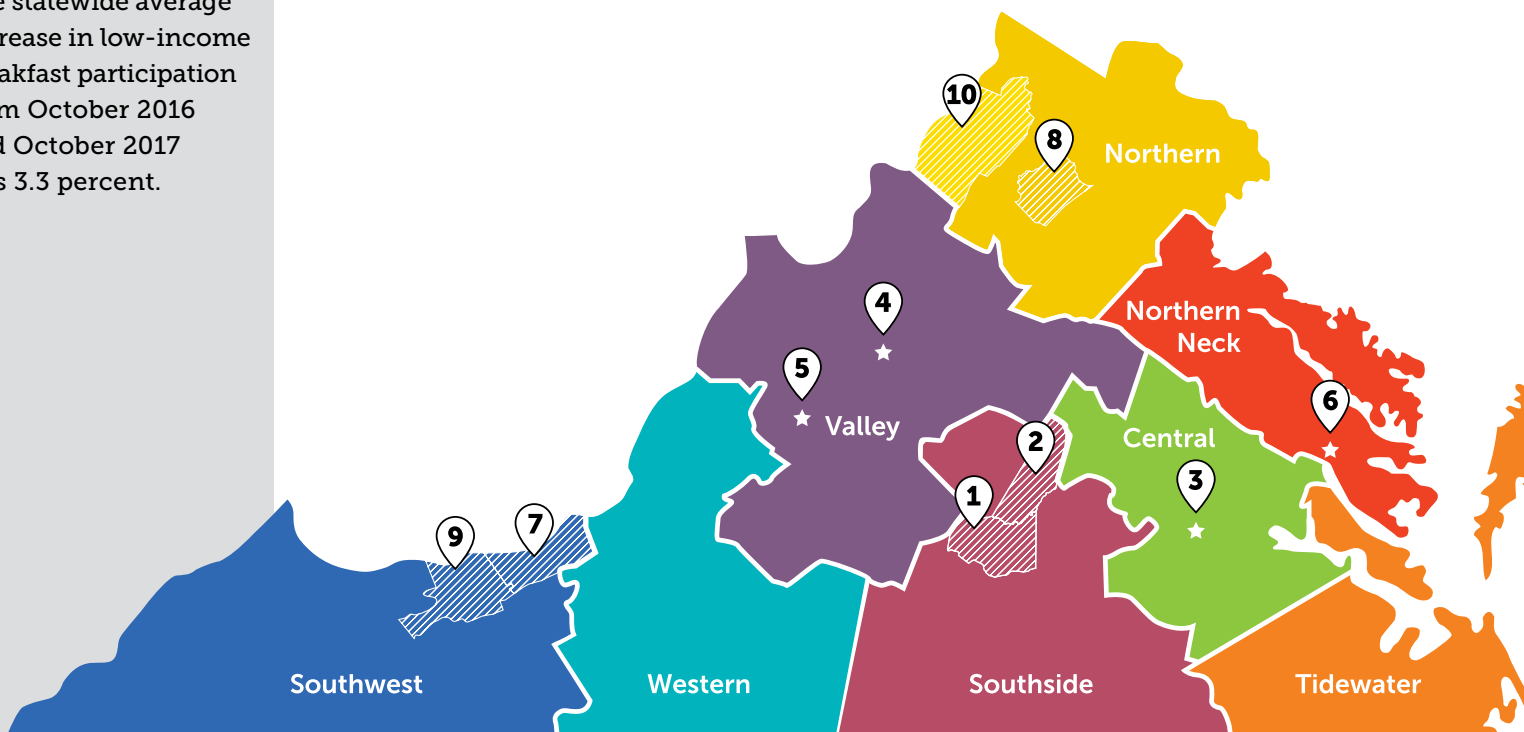
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Prince Edward County / 28.63% | 6 West Point / 15.56% |
| 2 Cumberland County / 23.84% | 7 Giles County / 14.33% |
| 3 Petersburg City / 18.16% | 8 Rappahannock County / 13.82% |
| 4 Waynesboro City / 16.40% | 9 Bland County / 12.57% |
| 5 Buena Vista City / 15.94% | 10 Shenandoah County / 12.43% |

Increase in Breakfast Participation Across the State

3.3%

The statewide average increase in low-income breakfast participation from October 2016 and October 2017 was 3.3 percent.

263,149 Virginia students eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals participated in school breakfast each day, an increase of 23,710.



Community Eligibility:

Making High-Poverty Schools in Virginia Hunger Free

In the 2017–2018 school year, 341 schools in 47 school divisions have adopted community eligibility. This is an increase of 86 schools compared to the previous school year. This success is due to the effective outreach of Virginia Hunger Solutions and other partner organizations.

Authorized by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, and phased in first in select states and then nationwide, the Community Eligibility Provision allows high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch free of charge to all students and to realize significant administrative savings by eliminating school meal applications. Any district, group of schools in a district, or school with 40 percent or more “identified students” – children who are eligible for free school meals who already are identified by means other than an individual household application – can choose to participate.

“Identified students” may be

- children who are directly certified for free school meals through data matching because their households receive SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR benefits or, in some states, Medicaid benefits;
- children who are certified for free meals without an application because they are homeless, migrant, enrolled in Head Start, or in foster care.

Community eligibility schools are reimbursed for meals served based on a formula. Because of evidence that the ratio of all eligible children-to-children in these identified categories would be 1.6-to-1, Congress built that into the formula. Reimbursements to the school are calculated by multiplying the percentage of identified students by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals that will be reimbursed at the federal free rate. For example, a school with 50 percent identified students would be reimbursed at the free rate for 80 percent of the meals eaten (50 multiplied by 1.6 = 80), and 20 percent at the paid rate.

“ I get tired, lose focus, and get irritable if I don’t eat.”

– Northumberland High student

Committed to Being Hunger Free

School districts may also choose to participate divisionwide or group schools however they choose if the district or group has an overall identified student percentage of 40 percent or higher.

The following Virginia school divisions have made the commitment to be hunger-free by adopting community eligibility in some or all of their schools for the 2017–2018 school year.

- Alleghany County – 1
- Augusta County – 1
- Bristol City – 5
- Brunswick County – 5
- Buchanan County – 6
- Buckingham County – 3
- Charlottesville City – 3
- Chesapeake City – 6
- Colonial Beach – 2
- Covington City – 2
- Cumberland County – 1
- Danville City – 12
- Dickenson County – 3
- Franklin City – 3
- Franklin County – 5
- Fredericksburg City – 4
- Greensville County – 4
- Halifax County – 7
- Hampton City – 14
- Harrisonburg City – 1
- Henrico County – 10
- Henry County – 14
- Hopewell City – 6
- Lee County – 10
- Lynchburg City – 14
- Martinsville City – 5
- Newport News – 26
- Norfolk City – 30
- Norton City – 2
- Orange County – 1
- Petersburg City – 8
- Portsmouth City – 14
- Prince Edward County – 1
- Pulaski County – 4
- Richmond City – 45
- Roanoke City – 19
- Russell County – 2
- Scott County – 3
- Smyth County – 4
- Staunton City – 3
- Suffolk City – 4
- Sussex County – 3
- Tazewell County – 4
- Virginia Beach City – 6
- Waynesboro City – 2
- Westmoreland County – 1
- Wise County – 7

LOW-INCOME STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN School Breakfast & Lunch

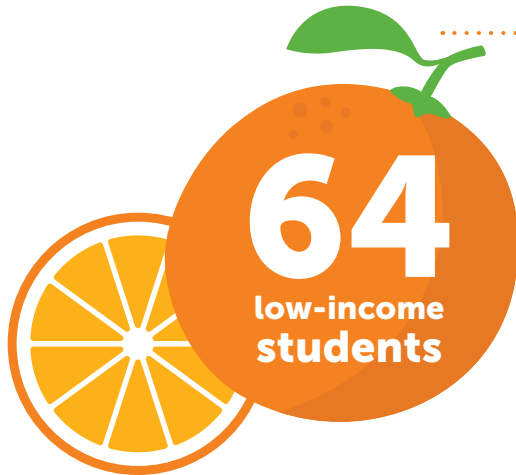


10

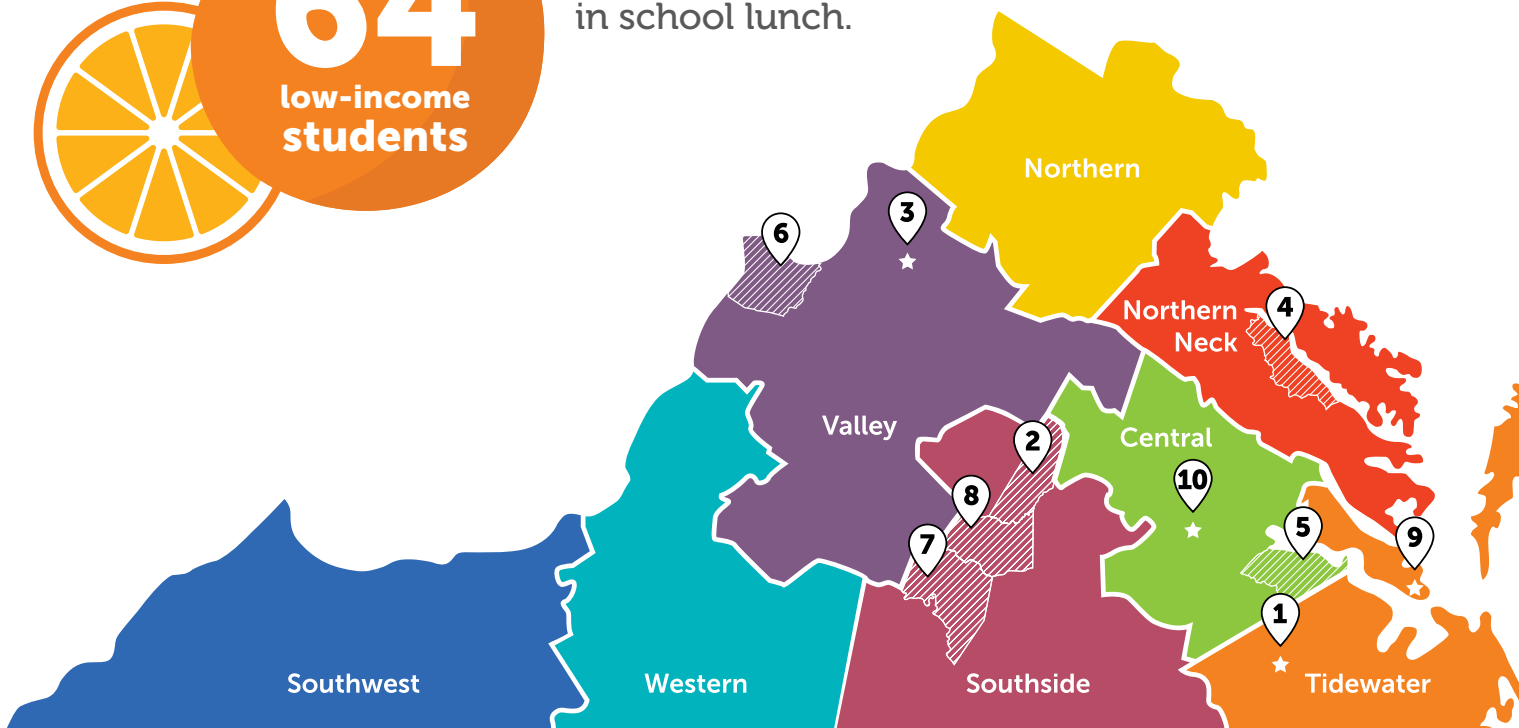
Top Divisions

with the highest ratio of free and reduced-price students in school breakfast per 100 in school lunch

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Franklin City / 112.2 | 6 Highland County / 83.0 |
| 2 Cumberland County / 108.7 | 7 Charlotte County / 82.96 |
| 3 Harrisonburg City / 92.0 | 8 Prince Edward County / 82.94 |
| 4 Essex County / 91.6 | 9 Newport News City / 82.0 |
| 5 Surry County / 84.1 | 10 Petersburg City / 81.5 |



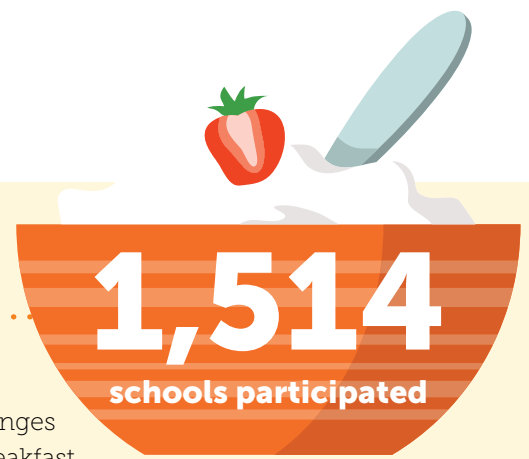
on average, participated in school breakfast for every 100 participating in school lunch.



Breakfast Challenge

The annual Virginia Breakfast Challenge has been a breakfast participation catalyst for the past two years. From October 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, 1,514 schools in 127 school divisions across the Commonwealth participated in the second challenge, committing to increase participation in their School Breakfast Program.

This year's challenge has focused on monthly mini-challenges that encourage community engagement with breakfast.



Examples of themed challenges have been "Breakfast with a Vet" and "Breakfast with a Leader," which encouraged schools to invite local community leaders, such as veterans and first responders. Many schools have used these mini-challenges to educate and engage the community about the importance of the school nutrition programs.

Conclusion

Virginia is moving in the right direction, serving over 23,000 additional low-income students in October 2017 compared to the previous school year. This report's findings demonstrate the positive results that offering school breakfast after the bell and, and when possible, at no charge to all students, primarily through the implementation of community eligibility, can have on increasing school breakfast participation.

There are several ways to serve breakfast after the bell, such as breakfast in the classroom, "grab and go," and a second chance to eat breakfast later in the morning. All of these best practices have helped schools in Virginia reach more children with the most important meal of the day and have eliminated the barriers that prevent children from receiving the nutrition they need to achieve academic success every school day.

Virginia Hunger Solutions looks forward to continue working with school divisions, advocates, policymakers, the Virginia Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build on these successes.

Methodology

The data in this report were provided by the Virginia Department of Education. Student participation data are based on the daily averages of the number of free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches during the month of October 2017. Other reports, such as the Food Research & Action Center's School Breakfast Scorecard, measure average participation by school year (September through May,) which can mean there is a variance in statistics. All of these numbers may undergo later revisions by states as accounting procedures find errors or other estimates become confirmed.

Virginia Hunger Solutions ranks school divisions based on the average daily number of children receiving free or reduced-price school breakfasts for every 100 children who were receiving free or reduced-price school lunches during the same month. The Food Research & Action Center has set a nationally attainable benchmark of every state reaching a ratio of 70 children receiving free or reduced-price breakfast for every 100 receiving free or reduced price lunch.

Low-Income Student Participation in School Lunch and School Breakfast (A-L)

F&RP: Free & Reduced-Price
SBP: School Breakfast Program
NSLP: National School Lunch Program
***Division in the Top 10**

School Division	October 2016				October 2017				2016 to 2017	
	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank	Change in the Number of F&RP Students in SBP	Rank
Accomack County Public Schools	1,762	2,895	60.86	59	1,689	2,559	66.00	52	5.14%	44
Albemarle County Public Schools	1,548	3,015	51.34	106	1,604	3,101	51.73	107	0.38%	91
Alexandria City Public Schools	4,280	7,326	58.42	67	3,745	7,211	51.93	106	-6.49%	128
Alleghany County Public Schools	422	754	55.97	82	415	731	56.77	90	0.80%	86
Amelia County Public Schools	445	550	80.91	10	444	569	78.03*	19	-2.88%	114
Amherst County Public Schools	1,054	1,592	66.21	37	1,045	1,600	65.31	56	-0.89%	102
Appomattox County Public Schools	527	722	72.99	22	608	746	81.50	11	8.51%*	23
Arlington County Public Schools	2,456	5,715	42.97	124	2,325	5,766	40.32	129	-2.65%	113
Augusta County Public Schools	2,037	3,081	66.11	38	2,319	3,100	74.81	29	8.69%*	21
Bath County Public Schools	122	192	63.54	49	155	221	70.14	39	6.59%	34
Bedford County Public Schools	1,481	2,538	58.35	70	1,534	2,611	58.75	87	0.40%	90
Bland County Public Schools	124	215	57.67	74	144	205	70.24	38	12.57%	9
Botetourt County Public Schools	316	789	40.05	127	426	863	49.36	116	9.31%	17
Bristol City Public Schools	939	1,285	73.07	21	927	1,275	72.71	35	-0.37%	98
Brunswick County Public Schools	787	1,327	59.31	65	712	1,181	60.29	76	0.98%	84
Buchanan County Public Schools	1,053	1,361	77.37	14	1,349	1,768	76.30	23	-1.07%	104
Buckingham County Public Schools	812	980	82.86	8	826	1,041	79.35*	17	-3.51%*	117
Buena Vista City Public Schools	139	270	51.48	102	178	264	67.42	46	15.94%	5
Campbell County Public Schools	1,499	2,595	57.76	73	1,588	2,678	59.30	80	1.53%	76
Caroline County Public Schools	907	1,573	57.66	75	941	1,587	59.29	81	1.63%	75
Carroll County Public Schools	1,087	1,667	65.21	42	1,158	1,750	66.17	51	0.96%	85
Charles City County Public Schools	182	277	65.70	39	182	277	65.70	53	0.00%	94
Charlotte County Public Schools	523	658	79.48	13	555	669	82.96	7	3.48%	60
Charlottesville City Public Schools	1,207	1,870	64.55	46	1,110	1,746	63.57	67	-0.97%	103
Chesapeake City Public Schools	6,272	9,333	67.20	33	6,688	9,319	71.77	36	4.56%	49
Chesterfield County Public Schools	7,079	13,755	51.46	103	9,170	15,487	59.21	83	7.75%	27
Clarke County Public Schools	106	284	37.32	130	135	301	44.85	123	7.53%	28
Colonial Beach Public Schools	280	329	85.11	4	220	299	73.58*	33	-11.53%*	132
Colonial Heights City Public Schools	421	1,017	41.40	125	438	1,097	39.93	130	-1.47%	105
Covington City Public Schools	214	400	53.50	94	186	362	51.38	108	-2.12%	112
Craig County Public Schools	117	243	48.15	113	127	264	48.11	120	-0.04%	95
Culpeper County Public Schools	1,234	2,793	44.18	121	1,377	2,934	46.93	121	2.75%	68
Cumberland County Public Schools	560	660	84.85	5	738	679	108.69*	2	23.84%	2
Danville City Public Schools	3,274	4,598	71.20	27	3,507	4,702	74.59	30	3.38%	62
Dickenson County Public Schools	628	998	62.93	52	737	1,036	71.14	37	8.21%	25
Dinwiddie County Public Schools	776	1,333	58.21	71	919	1,404	65.46	55	7.24%	29
Essex County Public Schools	580	714	81.23	9	664	725	91.59*	4	10.35%	13
Fairfax County Public Schools	17,504	40,163	43.58	123	20,013	41,183	48.60	119	5.01%	46
Falls Church City Public Schools	31	83	37.35	129	34	78	43.59	127	6.24%	36
Fauquier County Public Schools	1,116	2,107	52.97	96	1,170	2,189	53.45	102	0.48%	88
Floyd County Public Schools	480	738	65.04	43	557	757	73.58	32	8.54%	22
Fluvanna County Public Schools	347	788	44.04	122	427	863	49.48	114	5.44%	40
Franklin City Public Schools	911	833	109.36	1	947	844	112.20*	1	2.84%	65
Franklin County Public Schools	1,935	2,711	71.38	25	2,195	2,927	74.99	28	3.62%	58
Frederick County Public Schools	1,310	3,198	40.96	126	1,458	3,261	44.71	124	3.75%	56
Fredericksburg City Public Schools	1,047	1,899	55.13	84	1,053	2,021	52.10	105	-3.03%	116
Galax City Public Schools	361	665	54.29	90	347	618	56.15	93	1.86%	74
Giles County Public Schools	474	799	59.32	64	590	801	73.66	31	14.33%	7
Gloucester County Public Schools	662	1,486	44.55	119	745	1,502	49.60	113	5.05%	45
Goochland County Public Schools	238	480	49.58	110	257	527	48.77	118	-0.82%	100
Grayson County Public Schools	491	779	63.03	51	492	791	62.20	68	-0.83%	101
Greene County Public Schools	440	856	51.40	104	469	851	55.11	95	3.71%	57
Greensville County Public Schools	1,057	1,308	80.81	11	1,147	1,514	75.76	25	-5.05%	121
Halifax County Public Schools	1,359	2,422	56.11	80	1,592	2,562	62.14	69	6.03%	37
Hampton City Public Schools	5,308	9,700	54.72	86	5,945	9,639	61.68	70	6.95%	31
Hanover County Public Schools	795	1,743	45.61	117	1,036	2,351	44.07	126	-1.54%	107
Harrisonburg City Public Schools	2,979	3,449	86.37	3	3,294	3,582	91.96*	3	5.59%*	38
Henrico County Public Schools	9,593	16,529	58.04	72	10,176	17,172	59.26	82	1.22%	82
Henry County Public Schools	3,408	4,089	83.35	7	3,613	4,693	76.99*	22	-6.36%	127
Highland County Public Schools	89	117	76.07	17	88	106	83.02	6	6.95%	32
Hopewell City Public Schools	2,114	3,024	69.91	30	1,980	3,104	63.79	62	-6.12%	125
Isle of Wight County Public Schools	829	1,378	60.16	61	815	1,344	60.64	74	0.48%	89
King and Queen County Public Schools	223	265	84.15	6	236	306	77.12*	21	-7.03%	130
King George County Public Schools	614	946	64.90	44	661	1,026	64.42	60	-0.48%	99
King William County Public Schools	251	456	55.04	85	298	459	64.92	59	9.88%	15
Lancaster County Public Schools	310	589	52.63	97	325	536	60.63	75	8.00%	26
Lee County Public Schools	930	1,444	64.40	47	1,230	1,888	65.15	57	0.74%	87
Lexington City Public Schools	38	86	44.19	120	32	86	37.21	131	-6.98%	129
Loudoun County Public Schools	4,084	10,262	39.80	128	4,747	10,684	44.43	125	4.63%	48
Louisa County Public Schools	916	1,613	56.79	77	878	1,666	52.70	103	-4.09%	119

Low-Income Student Participation in School Lunch and School Breakfast (L-Y)

F&RP: Free & Reduced-Price
SBP: School Breakfast Program
NSLP: National School Lunch Program
**Division in the Top 10*

School Division	October 2016				October 2017				2016 to 2017	
	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank	F&RP SBP Students	F&RP NSLP Students	F&RP Students in SBP per 100 in NSLP	Rank	Change in the Number of F&RP Students in SBP	Rank
Lunenburg County Public Schools	486	764	63.61	48	444	747	59.44	79	-4.17%	120
Lynchburg City Public Schools	2,660	3,708	71.74	24	3,344	4,928	67.86	45	-3.88%	118
Madison County Public Schools	303	558	54.30	89	333	610	54.59	99	0.29%	92
Manassas City Public Schools	1,739	3,096	56.17	79	1,746	3,416	51.11	110	-5.06%	122
Manassas Park City Public Schools	875	1,735	50.43	107	907	1,796	50.50	111	0.07%	93
Martinsville City Public Schools	1,049	1,491	70.36	28	1,122	1,643	68.29	43	-2.07%	110
Mathews County Public Schools	226	366	61.75	56	247	377	65.52	54	3.77%	54
Mecklenburg County Public Schools	1,329	1,997	66.55	36	1,368	1,982	69.02	40	2.47%*	71
Middlesex County Public Schools	318	439	72.44	23	307	460	66.74	49	-5.70%	123
Montgomery County Public Schools	1,440	2,466	58.39	68	1,537	2,496	61.58	71	3.18%	64
Nelson County Public Schools	419	733	57.16	76	448	757	59.18	84	2.02%	72
New Kent County Public Schools	239	465	51.40	105	262	477	54.93	97	3.53%	59
Newport News City Public Schools	11,455	14,937	76.69	16	12,583	15,350	81.97	9	5.29%	43
Norfolk City Public Schools	11,707	17,855	65.57	40	12,837	18,636	68.88	41	3.32%	63
Northampton County Public Schools	514	954	53.88	91	554	957	57.89	88	4.01%	52
Northumberland County Public Schools	342	507	67.46	32	290	474	61.18	73	-6.27%*	126
Norton City Public Schools	142	286	49.65	109	337	595	56.64	91	6.99%	30
Nottoway County Public Schools	564	922	61.17	57	556	941	59.09	85	-2.09%	111
Orange County Public Schools	835	1,559	53.56	93	942	1,573	59.89	78	6.33%	35
Page County Public Schools	711	1,370	51.90	100	658	1,310	50.23	112	-1.67%	108
Patrick County Public Schools	711	998	71.24	26	735	1,005	73.13	34	1.89%*	73
Petersburg City Public Schools	1,795	2,832	63.38	50	2,311	2,834	81.55	10	18.16%	3
Pittsylvania County Public Schools	2,485	4,023	61.77	55	2,791	4,159	67.11	47	5.34%	42
Poquoson City Public Schools	69	220	31.36	131	83	243	34.16	132	2.79%	67
Portsmouth City Public Schools	6,416	7,184	89.31	2	6,469	7,940	81.47*	12	-7.84%*	131
Powhatan County Public Schools	149	487	30.60	132	212	521	40.69	128	10.10%	14
Prince Edward County Public Schools	566	1,042	54.32	88	924	1,114	82.94	8	28.63%	1
Prince George County Public Schools	1,216	2,017	60.29	60	1,301	2,043	63.68	66	3.39%	61
Prince William County Public Schools	15,521	29,989	51.76	101	17,397	31,240	55.69	94	3.93%	53
Pulaski County Public Schools	1,154	1,784	64.69	45	1,503	1,984	75.76	26	11.07%	12
Radford City Public Schools	320	537	59.59	63	366	538	68.03	44	8.44%	24
Rappahannock County Public Schools	120	180	66.67	34	165	205	80.49	14	13.82%	8
Richmond City Public Schools	13,668	17,146	79.72	12	13,791	17,353	79.47	16	-0.24%	97
Richmond County Public Schools	314	471	66.67	35	310	486	63.79	63	-2.88%	115
Roanoke City Public Schools	5,523	9,395	58.79	66	5,632	9,384	60.02	77	1.23%	81
Roanoke County Public Schools	1,272	2,658	47.86	114	1,456	2,956	49.26	117	1.40%	78
Rockbridge County Public Schools	358	788	45.43	118	481	882	54.54	100	9.10%	18
Rockingham County Public Schools	1,825	3,430	53.21	95	1,953	3,572	54.68	98	1.47%	77
Russell County Public Schools	886	1,654	53.57	92	925	1,645	56.23	92	2.66%	70
Salem City Public Schools	480	969	49.54	111	543	1,099	49.41	115	-0.13%	96
Scott County Public Schools	854	1,517	56.30	78	991	1,618	61.25	72	4.95%	47
Shenandoah County Public Schools	804	1,733	46.39	116	977	1,661	58.82	86	12.43%	10
Smyth County Public Schools	1,192	1,922	62.02	54	1,483	2,229	66.53	50	4.51%	50
Southampton County Public Schools	624	889	70.19	29	766	963	79.54	15	9.35%	16
Spotsylvania County Public Schools	3,355	6,425	52.22	98	3,774	6,857	55.04	96	2.82%	66
Stafford County Public Schools	4,131	6,630	62.31	53	4,421	6,941	63.69	65	1.39%	79
Staunton City Public Schools	737	1,070	68.88	31	810	1,071	75.63	27	6.75%	33
Suffolk City Public Schools	4,041	5,262	76.80	15	4,208	5,393	78.03	20	1.23%	80
Surry County Public Schools	261	347	75.22	18	290	345	84.06	5	8.84%*	20
Sussex County Public Schools	549	737	74.49	19	583	745	78.26	18	3.76%	55
Tazewell County Public Schools	1,467	2,402	61.07	58	1,622	2,543	63.78	64	2.71%*	69
Virginia Beach City Public Schools	10,976	19,571	56.08	81	13,283	20,434	65.00	58	8.92%	19
Warren County Public Schools	856	1,646	52.00	99	1,005	1,750	57.43	89	5.42%	41
Washington County Public Schools	1,239	2,122	58.39	69	1,591	2,492	63.84	61	5.46%	39
Waynesboro City Public Schools	779	1,306	59.65	62	1,073	1,411	76.05	24	16.40%	4
West Point Public Schools	117	179	65.36	41	157	194	80.93	13	15.56%	6
Westmoreland County Public Schools	639	858	74.48	20	605	884	68.44	42	-6.04%	124
Williamsburg/James City County	1,266	2,535	49.94	108	1,293	2,529	51.13	109	1.19%	83
Winchester City Public Schools	1,022	2,108	48.48	112	1,083	2,056	52.68	104	4.19%	51
Wise County Public Schools	1,354	2,445	55.38	83	1,521	2,845	53.46	101	-1.92%	109
Wythe County Public Schools	743	1,360	54.63	87	918	1,370	67.01	48	12.37%	11
York County Public Schools	738	1,555	47.46	115	793	1,725	45.97	122	-1.49%*	106
TOTALS	237,677	405,340	60.40		263,149	422,843	63.65			



Virginia Hunger Solutions is an initiative of the Virginia Poverty Law Center to fight hunger and improve the nutrition, health, and well-being of children and families throughout the Commonwealth who struggle with poverty.

The project was launched on November 1, 2013, with funding from the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). Its mission is advanced through public education, advocacy, and outreach.

Learn more at www.vahungersolutions.org