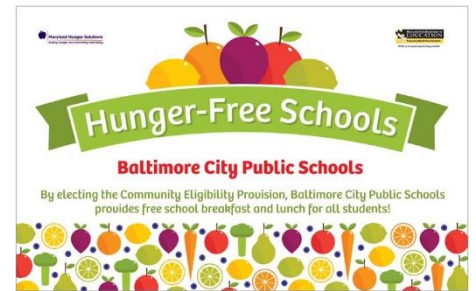


Summary of Results from the *Feeding Baltimore's Children Study*

What is the *Feeding Baltimore's Children* study about?

This project studied the impact that the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) has on students, schools, and families. CEP creates **Hunger-Free Schools** by providing universal access to free school breakfast and lunch and has been used in Baltimore City Public Schools since 2015. There are currently 242 schools using CEP in Maryland, and many more that are eligible, but not enrolled.



What did this study find?

This project provides evidence that CEP is an effective strategy to both reduce food insecurity and improve education outcomes.

More than 230,000 households in Maryland are **food insecure** – meaning that they have limited or uncertain access to enough healthy food. People who are food insecure may skip meals, eat less than they need, or go hungry because they don't have enough money for food. Children experiencing food insecurity are more likely to have poor health and are at increased risk for problems in school.



*Students attending a school with CEP were nearly **THREE TIMES LESS LIKELY TO BE FOOD INSECURE**, as compared to students attending a CEP eligible, but non-participating school – even after adjusting for race/ethnicity and education level of the adult!*

What is CEP?

Community eligibility, which was included in the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, simplifies administrative processes by removing the need for individual free and reduced-price meal applications (known as “FARMS” forms), which can be confusing for families and burdensome for schools to collect and process. Instead, schools are reimbursed for school meals through a formula based on the number of “identified students” that are in foster care or Head Start, are homeless, migrant or living in households that receive SNAP (food stamps) or TANF cash assistance.

Please note that the results here are PRELIMINARY and have NOT YET been PEER-REVIEWED.

How does CEP impact schools?

This study found that CEP had a positive impact on schools.

- Elementary and middle schools with CEP had significantly **improved attendance** rates.
- **Grade promotion** rates were significantly higher in CEP schools.
- Significant **increases in school lunch participation** for all school levels in schools with CEP.

What do students, parents, and administrators think about CEP?

Students, parents, and administrators all reported positive results from CEP including:

- Decreased financial barriers to food,
- Less stigma around school meals, and
- Serving foods that are nutritious and that children like.

"[BEFORE CEP], "KIDS CAN FEEL REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS ISSUE OF NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD LUNCH."

Baltimore City
Parent

"EVERYBODY IS ABLE TO EAT NOW, AND THAT FEELS GOOD TO KNOW, THAT IF KIDS DON'T EAT IT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO, NOT BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE LUNCH MONEY."

"[BEFORE CEP], KIDS WERE STEALING LUNCHES"

Baltimore City School Administrators

"WE DO HAVE LOTS OF FAMILIES THAT HAVE FOOD ACCESS ISSUES, SO WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE KIDS THAT ARE HUNGRY. THE TWO MEALS THAT THEY EAT HERE A DAY MIGHT BE THE MOST WELL-BALANCED AND FULL MEALS THAT THEY GET."

"I LIKE THE FACT THAT THE KIDS HAVE THE ACCESS TO FOOD... THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THAT LUNCH SHIFT THAT EAT LIKE THEY HAVE NOT EATEN, MAYBE, SINCE THE DAY BEFORE."

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Maryland Hunger Solutions
Ending hunger and promoting well-being

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