

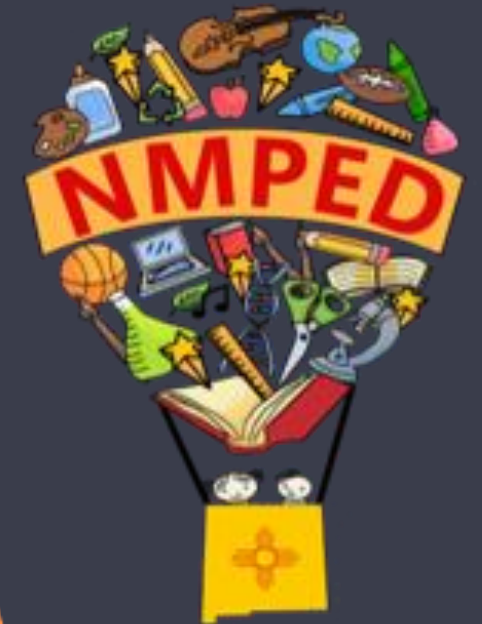
Presentation for the Legislative Education Study Committee

Healthy Universal School Meals Program (HUSM)

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Student Success and Wellness Bureau

September 18, 2024

Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.



*A Presentation by the
New Mexico Public
Education Department*

Healthy Universal School Meals Overview

- Rule requirements, certification, and funding
- Support for districts
- Number of schools participating by program option
- Meal participation over the years
- FY25 projections
- Budget projections
- Legislative considerations

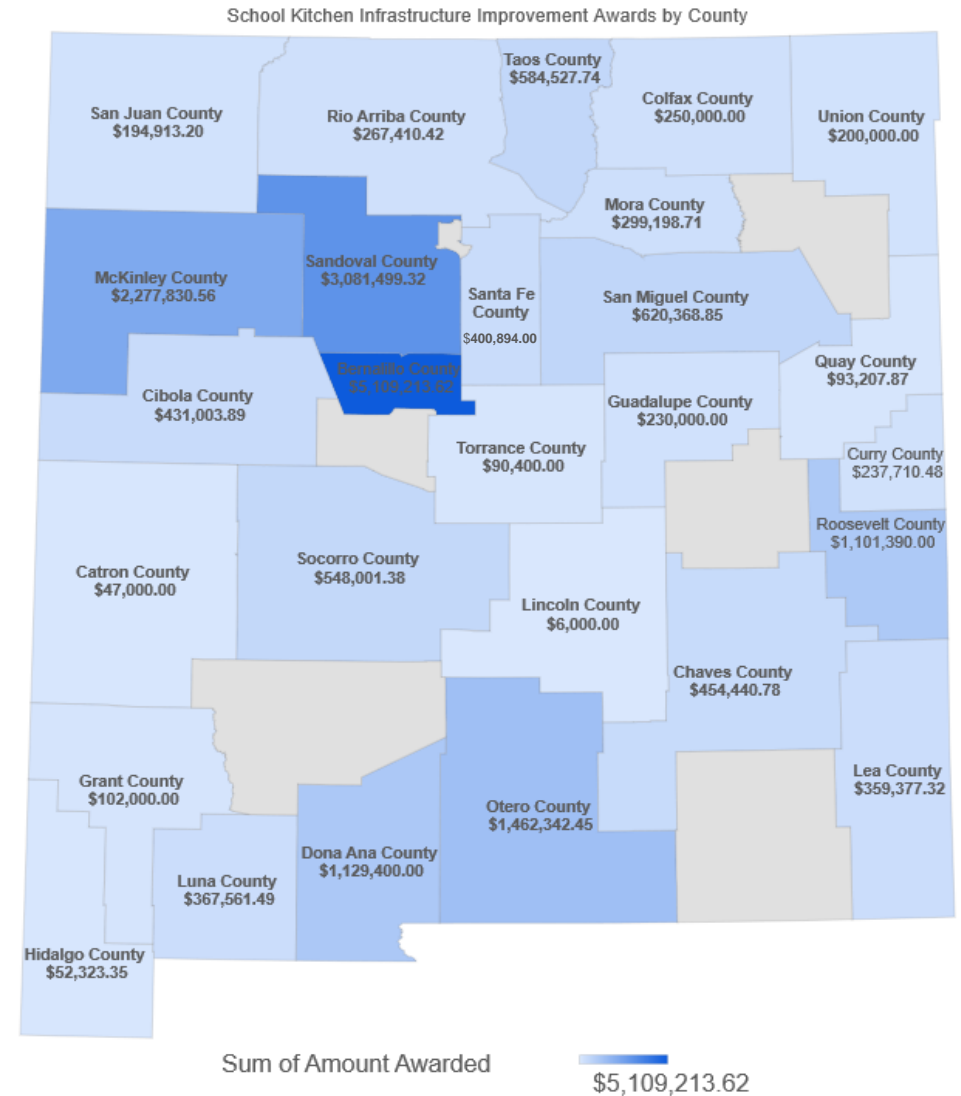


Rule Requirements, Certification, and Funding

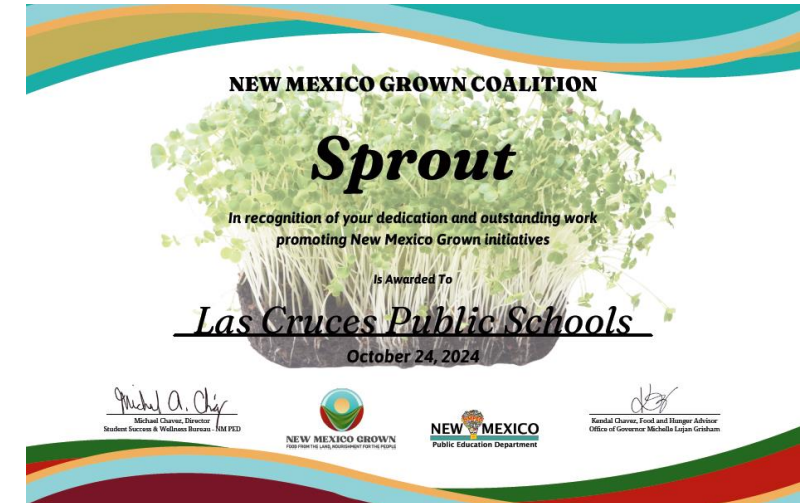
- Achieve certification for meal quality improvement requirements by July 1, 2025.
- Fifty percent of all weekly required meal pattern components, with the exception of milk, shall be freshly prepared.
- Achieve the lowest level of food waste.
- Utilize New Mexico-grown foods.
- Each School Food Authority (SFA) that operates a healthy universal school meals program shall submit to the department for approval an annual certification documentation.
- Beginning in school year 2025–2026, to SFAs that do not meet meal quality improvement requirements by July 1 each year, the department shall distribute an amount that is equal to the paid meal rate multiplied by the total number of eligible meals served during the applicable budget year.

Support for Districts – Kids Kitchens

- \$20 million in school kitchen infrastructure grants was awarded to 87 school food authorities that applied for funding. **40 of them are charter schools.**
- \$1.7 million in NM Grown funding was awarded in FY25.
- Chef Ann Foundation: “Get Schools Cooking” and “Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship”
- 18 culinary trainings will be provided this school year.
- Back to School Conference – October 1 & 2 in Albuquerque, NM



Meal Quality Improvement Awards



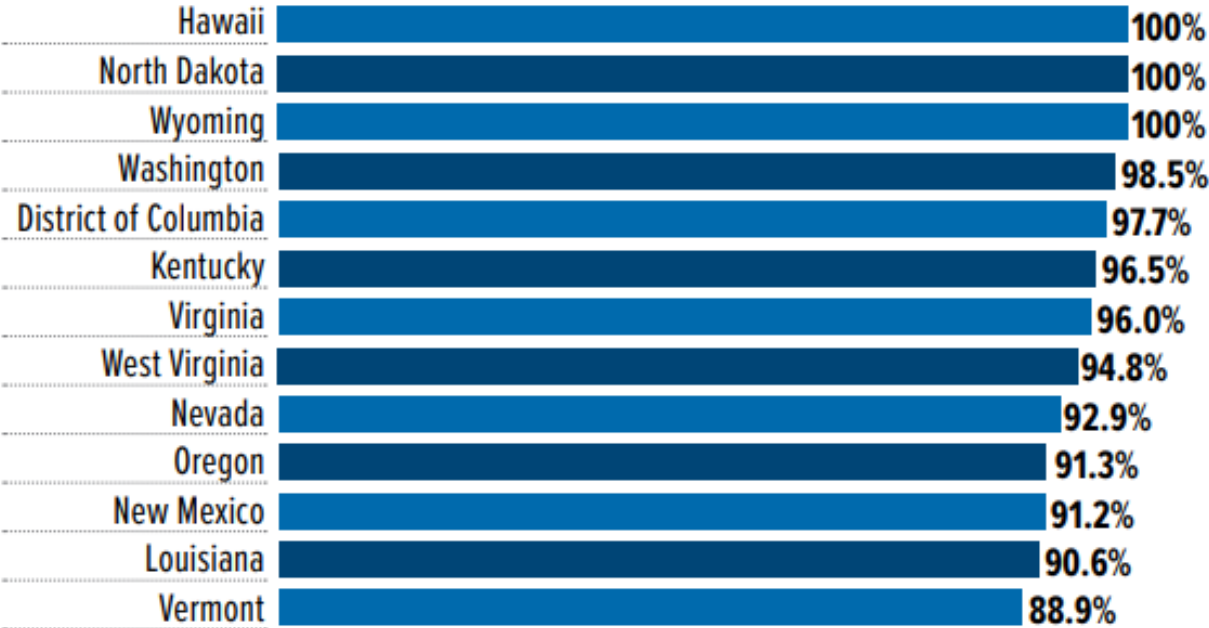
- New Mexico Golden Chile Award
- USDA Healthy Meals Incentive recognition award
- USDA Turnip the Beet Award

Maximizing Federal Funds



- As of July 1, 2024, 95% of all schools in New Mexico are now participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program

GRAPH 2: Percentage of Eligible School Districts Adopting Community Eligibility in School Year 2022–2023



Meal Participation Over the Years

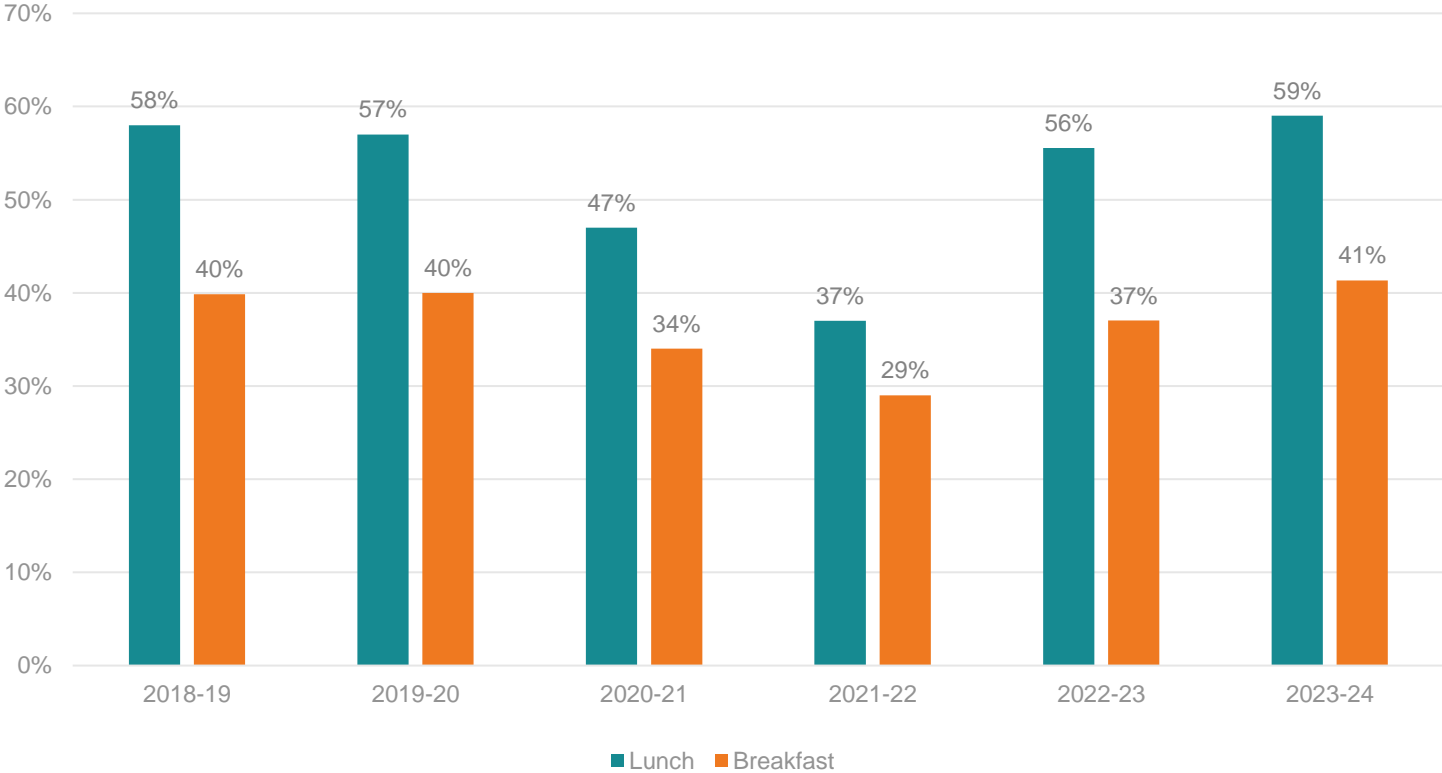
Total Meals Served

- SY 2023-24: 55,020,714 meals served
- SY 2024-25: 58,000,000 meals projected to be served

Student Impact

- 191,977 Students having lunch daily
- 137,984 Students having breakfast daily

6 -Year Average Daily Participation



Program Budget Projections

USDA rates increase July 1 of each year, increasing the state contribution over time. As of 2023-2024 the state is covering the per meal cost difference between the federal free meal reimbursement rate and the federal paid reimbursement rate which was \$3.85 FY24 and \$4.01 FY25.

Budget Projections

These budget projections use current USDA reimbursement rates for FY25, projected rates for FY26, and assumes an increase in participation of 5% each year.

	FY25	FY26
Funding Provided for Meals	\$41,000,000	\$41,000,000
Actual HUSM Cost	\$48,848,119	\$55,946,803
Funding Shortage	\$7,848,119	\$14,946,803

Legislative Considerations

- Continued funding and support for healthy universal school meals



Thank you!

For Questions

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