



Area Eligibility

An area in which 50 percent or more of the children residing in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals

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Area Eligibility Can Be Conferred By

School Data

- Area Eligible Schools List (and Site Eligible Schools List) distributed by CSDE each winter

Census Data

- Census Block Groups (CBGs)
- Census Tracts

Documentation from other approved sources, i.e., welfare or education agencies, zoning commissions, housing authorities

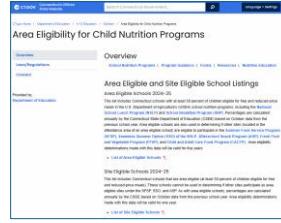


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CSDE Webpage

CSDE Area Eligibility for Child Nutrition Programs



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/area-eligibility>

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Area Eligibility Using School Data

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CSDE Area Eligible Schools List

List of Area Eligible Schools (October 2024 Data)

Sponsor ID	Sponsor Name	Site Number	Site Name	Percentage Free and Reduced
002000	Amenie School District	01	Amenie High School	88.13
002000	Amenie School	01	Amenie Middle School	85.07
002000	Amenie School District	03	Mead School	100.00

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CSDE Site Eligible Schools List

List of Area Eligible Schools (October 2024 Data)

Sponsor ID	Sponsor Name	Site Number	Site Name	Percentage Free and Reduced
280000	Amenie First Bridgeport Academy	02	Amenie First Bridgeport Academy Elementary	100.00
280000	Amenie First Bridgeport Academy	01	Amenie First Bridgeport Academy Middle	97.25
280000	Amenie First Bridgeport Academy	03	Amenie First Bridgeport High School	92.26

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Area Eligibility Using Census Data

SUN
SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

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Area Eligibility Using Census Data

- Must use most recent Census Data
 - Annual projections released each October
- Can use two Geographical Units
 - Census Block Groups (CBGs)
 - Can be combined to calculate weighted average
 - Census Tracts
 - Cannot be combined



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Area Eligibility Maps Containing Census Data

USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

- Area Eligibility Map
 - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/area-eligibility>
- Capacity Builder Map
 - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/capacity-builder>



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Pause for Attendance



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Demonstration of USDA Area Eligibility Map for CACFP and Summer Meals

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USDA Area Eligibility Mapper for CACFP and Summer Meals

- Green is area eligible
- Gray is not area eligible



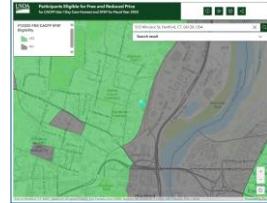
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/area-eligibility>

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Address Search

- Type in address for potential Summer Meals site



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Census Block Group Information

- Click on Census Block Group (CBG)

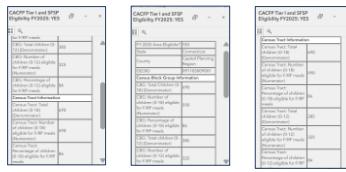


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Census Block Group Information

- Highlighted Census Block Group (CBG)



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Choosing a Data Set

- May use either SFSP or CACFP data set to establish area eligibility for SFSP
 - CBG
 - Census Tract



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Weighted Average

- With state agency approval, may average adjacent (touching) CBGs, using weighted average, to determine eligibility
- May average up to 3 adjacent CBGs, including "referent" CBG where site is located
- All CBGs must have 40% or higher free/reduced-price school meal eligibility
- All CBGs are touching "referent" CBG
- Same age group (0-18 or 0-12) used for all CBGs

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Tips for Calculating a Weighted Average

- Do use weighted average
 - Add numerators of each CBG
 - Add denominators of each CBG
 - Divide sum of numerators by sum of denominators

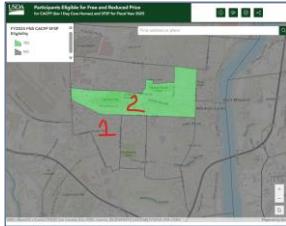
- Do not average percentages of free and reduced-price school meal eligible children in each CBG

Cannot average
Census Tracts

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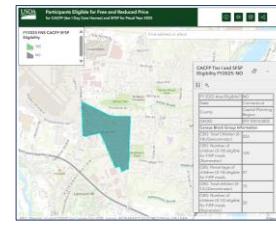
Weighted Average Demo



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Weighted Average Demo: Selecting the CBGs



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Weighted Average Demo: Doing the Math

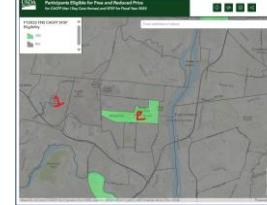
CBG #1	CBG #2	Averaged Together
091104763003	091104762001	
120 eligible children	285 eligible children	405 eligible children
255 total children	510 total children	765 total children
47.06% F/R	55.88% F/R	52.94% F/R

It's Eligible!

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Weighted Average Not Allowable



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When a Site is
Not Area Eligible



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Closed Enrolled Site in Not Area Eligible Location

- At least 50% of children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals
 - Free/reduced-price school lunch eligibility status as obtained from their school
 - Household Income Application completed by child's family

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Closed Enrolled Site

A site open only to enrolled children or to an identified group of children, as opposed to the community at large

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How to Identify a Closed Enrolled Site

Usually established where

- identified group of children live in "pocket of eligibility"
- identified low-income children are transported to congregate meal site located in an area with less than 50 percent eligible children
- a program provides recreational, cultural, religious, or other types of organized activities for a specific group of children



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Camp Site

- Not required to establish area eligibility
- Must collect and maintain household income applications or school eligibility status



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Camp Site

- Reimbursed only for eligible children
- May charge ineligible children for meals, ensuring no overt identification of eligibility status
- Must be licensed by Connecticut Office of Early Childhood



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Critical Reminder

- Academic summer school students cannot be fed via Closed Enrolled SFSP or SSO meal site
- If school site is area eligible and opens its meal program to the community, all meals can be served at no cost to families under SFSP or SSO



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Summer Meal Site Eligibility Duration

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Summer Meal Site Eligibility Duration

- Open and Closed Enrolled meal site eligibility based on school data or census data is 5 years
- CSDE encourages sponsors to assess and reset 5-year cycle each year, if possible
- Meal site eligibility based on other sources (i.e., income eligibility applications, migrant organizations) must be updated annually



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5-Year Eligibility Cycle

Area Eligibility established in 2025

- 2026 – Year 2 of 5-year cycle
- 2027 – Year 3 of 5-year cycle
- 2028 – Year 4 of 5-year cycle
- 2029 – Year 5 of 5-year cycle

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CSDE Summer Meal Programs Interest Survey Form



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Today's Objective: Completing the Interest Survey Site List

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Summer Meal Site Eligibility Source

Eligibility Source	
area eligible via	School
or	% free/reduced School Year 20
area eligible via census block group	
or	% free/reduced 20
	applications/direct certification

Examples

- Area eligible via Ansonia High School 88.13% free/reduced School Year 2024-25 or
- Area eligible via census block group 091104763003 47.06% free/reduced 2025 or
- Applications/direct certification

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https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cnstaff/county_assign_summer_meals.pdf

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Questions?

Contact CSDE's Summer Meal Programs Staff

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Thanks for participating!

▪ More guidance and resources



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/summer-food-service-program/annual-training>

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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