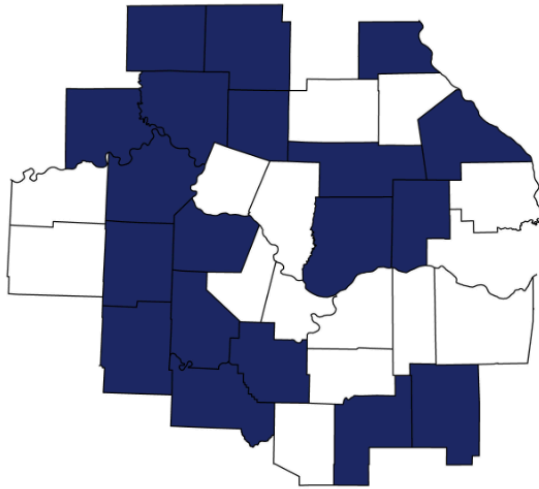


# More mid-Missouri counties utilize free or reduced lunch

By Kaylin Burris, Molly Dove and Alex Li

The number of Missouri children living in poverty is decreasing, according to data obtained by Missouri KIDS COUNT. However, the number of students on free and reduced meal programs at schools continues to rise. Morgan, Pettis, and Audrain counties have some of the highest number of students on free and reduced lunch programs. Mexico Public Schools in Audrain County utilizes the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) to provide free lunch for elementary and middle school students.



## Counties that Qualify for CEP

These highlighted counties qualify for CEP, meaning over 40% of their student population have free or reduced meals.

## Eligibility Breakdown by Grade Level

This table explains which students at Mexico Public Schools qualify for free, reduced, or full price meals without the CEP program.

School	# Enrolled	Reduced Price	Free	Full Price	% on Free and Reduced
Hart Career Center	19	0	13	6	68.42
Mexico High School	648	43	250	355	45.21
Mexico Middle School	511	38	257	216	57.72
Eugene Field Elementary School	429	0	313	116	72.96
Hawthorne Elementary School	453	0	330	123	72.84
McMillan Elementary School	213	0	155	58	72.76
Total	2273	81	1318	577	61.54

## Money Saved on Meals

Full price breakfast: \$1.30  
 Full price lunch: \$2.50  
 Total number of school days for 2017-2018 year: 171 days  
 $\$1.30 \times 171 = \$222.30$  per student for breakfast  
 $\$2.50 \times 171 = \$427.50$  per student for lunch  
**Total per student per year: \$649.80**

Reduced price breakfast: \$0.30  
 Reduced price lunch: \$0.40  
 Total number of school days for the year: 171 days  
 $\$0.30 \times 171 = \$51.30$  per student for breakfast  
 $\$0.40 \times 171 = \$68.40$  per student for lunch  
**Total per student per year: \$119.70**