

2023 Food Rankings

Amy Shuff

2023-03-31

Our 2023 Food Rankings analyze data from the 2022 Program Year (2021-2022 data).

The code used to create our rankings is available to the public on github.

Data Sources

Texas Education Agency (TEA)

- Total Enrollment Counts in Student Program and Special Populations Reports, PEIMS Data 2021-2022

TEA data was obtained via Public Records Request. From this data we use the student enrollment counts and economically disadvantaged counts.

Student enrollment for small campuses are masked. In the case of the reported number being <10 , we use 10. This means our district student counts are a slight overestimate.

Economically disadvantaged counts are sometimes unavailable, so in that case they are assumed zero.

Percent economically disadvantaged for each district is calculated from the campus student counts.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

- Although we obtained our data from a public information request, it is also available on the Food and Nutrition Meals Served Dashboard, 2021-2022.

School Nutrition Program (SNP)

SNP Data includes meal counts from the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Credit for participating in the Community Eligible Provision (CEP) was given to the entire district if they had any participating location.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

SSO data was obtained from the TDA F&N Meals Served Dashboard.

- 2021-2022 Monthly SNP & SSO School Meal Count

Note from the data dashboard: “In March 2020, USDA began allowing flexibility in nutrition assistance program policies to support continued meal access during the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). This

included offering School Nutrition Program sponsors the option to provide meals through Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in program year 2021-2022.”

The SSO is what schools used to offer free meals to all students regardless of income. Because of this, we are choosing to look at total number of meals served instead of only the free and reduced as we’ve done in years past. This option will not be available next year because the program has ended.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP) – At Risk– Meal Reimbursement – Program Year 2021-2022

CACFP data captures meals (supper) served in At-Risk afterschool care centers.

Analysis

Harmony Districts

Harmony Public Schools are listed under multiple district numbers (101858, 101862, 71806, 15828, 161807, 101846, 227816) in both the TEA and TDA data, but we combine them and consider them as a single district.

Aggregate data up to district level

TDA data is reported monthly by Contracting Entities (CE) and participating sites. Usually October is used as the snapshot claim month for the year. This year fewer sites reported to TDA, and those that did didn’t report every month, instead favoring SSO for meal reimbursement, so we used their maximum claim month for the year instead.

Breakfast and lunch average daily participation (ADP) rates were found by dividing all meals served by the number of days meals were served.

Then the percent of breakfast and lunch participation was found by dividing their respective ADPs by the total number of students, as reported by the TEA data.

Our previous rankings found the percent of breakfast and lunch participation by dividing the free and reduced meals by the students that were eligible for them. We are looking at all meals for all students this year, since everyone was eligible for a free meal with SSO.

Credit for supper and snacks was given if any were offered by any site in the district at any point in the year.

Overall Rankings

District scores were calculated as follows

- 25% lunch participation percent
- 50% breakfast participation percent
- 10% serving supper
- 15% serving after school snacks

We only include districts that have at least 1,000 students and at least 60% economically disadvantaged student population.

Table 1: Top 10 Districts Overall

District Name	Rank	County	ESC Region	Total Enrollment	% Economically Disadvantaged	Overall Score	% Lunch Participation	% Breakfast Participation	CACFP Supper	Afterschool Snack	CEP
DONNA ISD	1	HIDALGO	Q	13,080	93.9	81.9	80.5	73.6	Yes	Yes	Yes
IDEA ACADEMY	2	HIDALGO	Q	67,988	83.3	81.1	79.5	72.3	Yes	Yes	Yes
MCALLEN ISD	3	HIDALGO	Q	20,410	73.8	77.0	70.7	68.7	Yes	Yes	Yes
HARLANDALE ISD	4	BEXAR	20	12,094	88.0	76.6	63.3	71.6	Yes	Yes	Yes
CLINT ISD	5	EL PASO	19	10,494	86.7	75.7	62.6	70.0	Yes	Yes	Yes
LA JOYA ISD	6	HIDALGO	Q	24,163	93.2	71.2	73.5	55.6	Yes	Yes	Yes
EAGLE PASS ISD	7	MAVERICK	10K	13,385	83.1	71.1	64.1	80.2	No	Yes	Yes
EDINBURG ISD	8	HIDALGO	Q	32,078	82.2	68.6	75.7	49.3	Yes	Yes	Yes
SAN ANTONIO ISD	9	BEXAR	20	44,731	87.9	67.2	67.1	50.9	Yes	Yes	Yes
HARLINGEN CONS ISD	10	CAMERON	EN	17,037	76.5	66.9	71.8	47.8	Yes	Yes	Yes

Large districts

Districts are considered large if they have at least 50,000 students.

Table 2: Top 5 Large Districts

District Name	Rank	County	ESC Region	Total Enrollment	% Economically Disadvantaged	Overall Score	% Lunch Participation	% Breakfast Participation	CACFP Supper	Afterschool Snack	CEP
IDEA ACADEMY	1	HIDALGO	Q	67,988	83.3	81.1	79.5	72.3	Yes	Yes	Yes
ALDINE ISD	2	HARRIS	4	61,642	89.7	61.2	69.0	37.9	Yes	Yes	No
HOUSTON ISD	3	HARRIS	4	194,622	79.2	58.7	56.0	39.5	Yes	Yes	Yes
DALLAS ISD	4	DALLAS	10	143,574	85.1	57.5	60.9	34.6	Yes	Yes	Yes
GARLAND ISD	5	DALLAS	10	53,685	73.9	53.9	64.5	25.5	Yes	Yes	Yes

Middle-income districts

Districts are considered middle-income if they have 60-70% economically disadvantaged student population. This takes out high poverty schools and focuses on those which often face more challenges in implementing school food programs to scale.

Table 3: Top 5 Middle-income Districts

District Name	Rank	County	ESC Region	Total Enrollment	% Economically Disadvantaged	Overall Score	% Lunch Participation	% Breakfast Participation	CACFP Supper	Afterschool Snack	CEP
JUDSON ISD	1	BEXAR	20	24,552	68.4	66.0	68.1	47.9	Yes	Yes	Yes
WICHITA FALLS ISD	2	WICHITA	9	13,380	65.8	64.0	70.1	43.0	Yes	Yes	No
NEW CANEY ISD	3	MONTGOMERY	17	17,116	67.1	52.5	73.0	38.4	No	Yes	No
EAST CENTRAL ISD	4	BEXAR	20	10,018	66.2	51.6	64.2	41.0	No	Yes	Yes
VICTORIA ISD	5	VICTORIA	3	13,315	68.5	50.9	59.2	22.2	Yes	Yes	Yes

Key Take-Aways

All 5,429,895 students in Texas were offered free meals this year.

The top ranking districts all had over 70% of their student population participating in lunch.

Even the lowest ranked district had 44.9% of their student population participating in lunch.

Top 10 school districts overall: Donna ISD, IDEA Academy, McAllen ISD, Harlandale ISD, Clint ISD, La Joya ISD, Eagle Pass ISD, Edinburg ISD, San Antonio ISD, Harlingen Consolidated ISD

Top 5 large school districts: IDEA Academy, Aldine ISD, Houston ISD, Dallas ISD, Garland ISD

Top 5 middle-income school districts: Judson ISD, Wichita Falls ISD, New Caney ISD, East Central ISD, Victoria ISD

District with the highest lunch participation: Donna ISD, with 80.5% of their total student population participating in lunch

District with the highest breakfast participation: Eagle Pass ISD, with 80.2% of their total student population participating in breakfast

16.6% of districts participate in the CACFP after-school meal program