2023 Food Rankings

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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](https://github.com/amyshuff/Food-Rankings-2021-2022).

# 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](https://data.texas.gov/stories/s/2021-2022-TDA-Food-and-Nutrition-Meals-Served-Dash/93tt-ffn6).

### 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](https://data.texas.gov/dataset/2021-2022-Monthly-School-Meal-Count/dyrd-amq2)

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](https://data.texas.gov/dataset/Child-and-Adult-Care-Food-Programs-CACFP-At-Risk-M/e4wr-4i5j)

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.

## Large districts

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

## 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.

# Key Take-Aways

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All 5,429,895 students in Texas qualified for free meals this year.

top ranking districts participation rates

lowest ranking districts participation rates

Top 10 school districts overall

top 5 large school districts

top 5 middle-income school districts

district with the highest lunch participation district with the highest breakfast participation

percent of districts that participate in the CACFP after-school meal program