

Community Eligibility

Making High-Poverty Schools Hunger Free



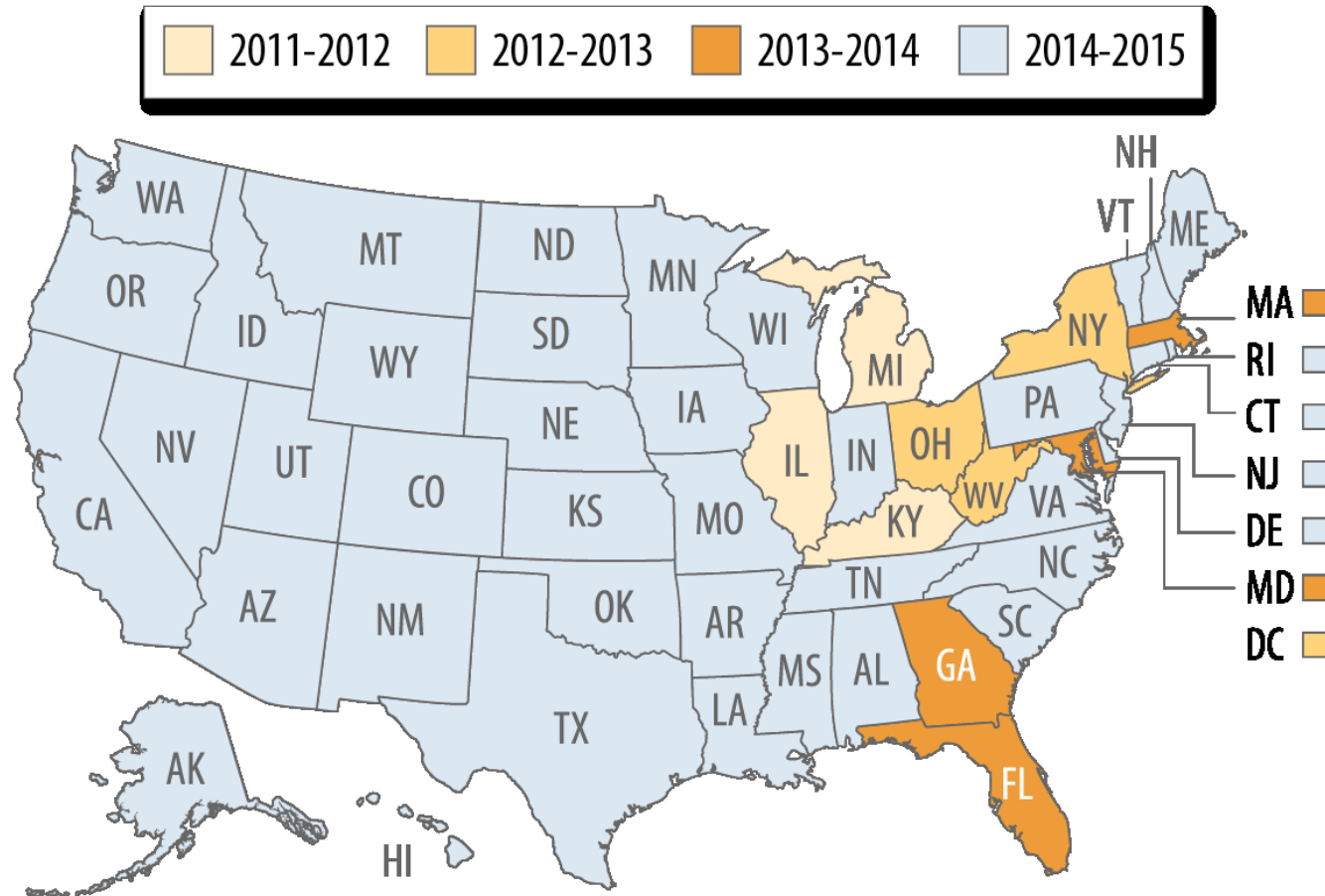
The Link Between Nutrition and Education

- When a child's nutritional needs are met, the child is more attentive in class and has better attendance and fewer disciplinary problems
- The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs meet the nutritional needs of children by providing nutritionally balanced meals that together contain more than half of the nutrients children need each day
- USDA research indicates that children who participate in the National School Lunch Program have superior nutritional intakes compared to those who bring lunch from home or otherwise do not participate
- Low-income children who eat school breakfast have better overall diet quality than those who eat breakfast elsewhere or skip breakfast

What Is Community Eligibility?

- It doesn't make sense for high-poverty schools to go through the standard application process to identify the few children who do *not* qualify for free or reduced-price school meals
- Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 included community eligibility as a new option to allow high-poverty schools to feed more students and focus on meal quality rather than on paperwork
- Community eligibility is designed to be extremely easy for a school or district to adopt and will be available nationwide starting with the 2014-2015 school year

Community Eligibility Is Being Phased In



Source: USDA decisions under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org

How Community Eligibility Works

- High-poverty schools provide free breakfasts and lunches to all students without collecting applications
- Any school district can use this option if at least one of its schools has 40 percent or more students certified for free meals without application (called “Identified Students”)
- Most schools with a 40 percent Identified Student Percentage have 75 percent or more of its students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals
- The district may implement community eligibility in one school, a group of schools or district-wide.
- By May 1 of next year, states must publish lists of all schools that are eligible for community eligibility and all schools that are near-eligible

Who Are “Identified Students”?

Children certified for free meals without submitting a school meal application

Includes children who are directly certified (through data matching) for free meals because they live in households that participate in the

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cash Assistance (TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or
- Medicaid (in districts participating in USDA’s demonstration project)

Includes children who are certified for free meals without application because they are

- in foster care
- in Head Start
- are homeless or
- are migrant

Reimbursements Under Community Eligibility

- $\% \text{ Identified Students} \times 1.6 = \% \text{ meals reimbursed at "free" rate}$; the rest are reimbursed at "paid" rate
- Example: a school with 50 percent Identified Students would be reimbursed at the free rate for 80 percent of the breakfasts and lunches it served ($50\% \times 1.6 = 80\%$) and the remaining 20 percent would be reimbursed at the paid rate
- Participating schools are guaranteed to receive the same reimbursement rate (or a higher one if the Identified Student Percentage increases) for 4 years

Meal Reimbursements with Community Eligibility

The reimbursement rate for both lunch and breakfast is determined by multiplying the percent of Identified Students by a 1.6 multiplier. The resulting number is the percent of meals reimbursed at the “free” reimbursement rate, with the rest reimbursed at the “paid” rate.

Percentage Identified Students	Percentage Free	Paid
40%	64%	36%
45%	72%	28%
50%	80%	20%
55%	88%	12%
60%	96%	4%
65%	100%	0

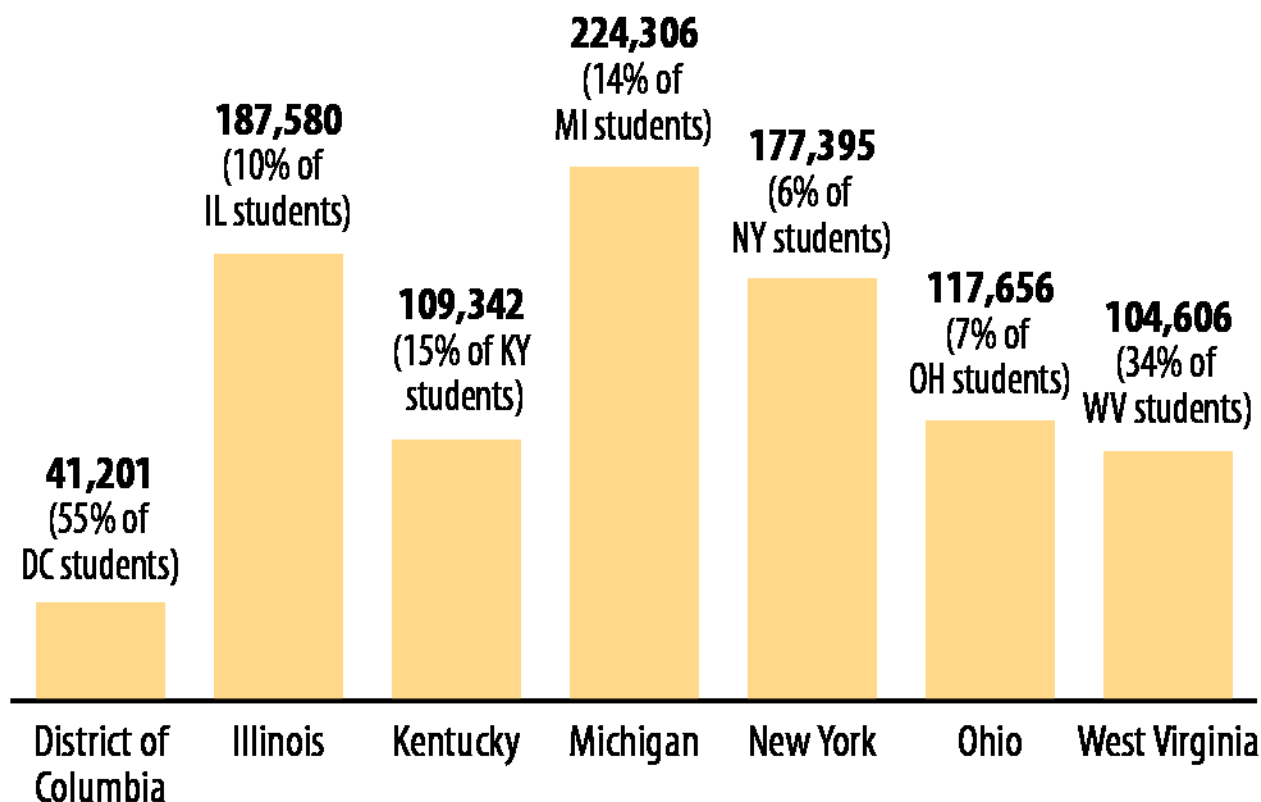
How School Districts Can Participate

- **By individual school**
 - Individual schools with 40% or more Identified Students participate in community eligibility
- **By group**
 - Districts may choose to group schools any way they wish and calculate the free claiming percentage for the group of schools as a whole, using their combined enrollment and total number of Identified Students, as long as the percentage is 40% or higher
 - There is no limit to the number of groups
 - Within the same school district, some schools can participate individually and some can participate as a group
- **By school district**
 - All schools in the district participate as a single group with the same free claiming percentage as long as it is 40% or higher

More Than 2,200 Schools Successfully Implemented Community Eligibility During The 2012-2013 School Year

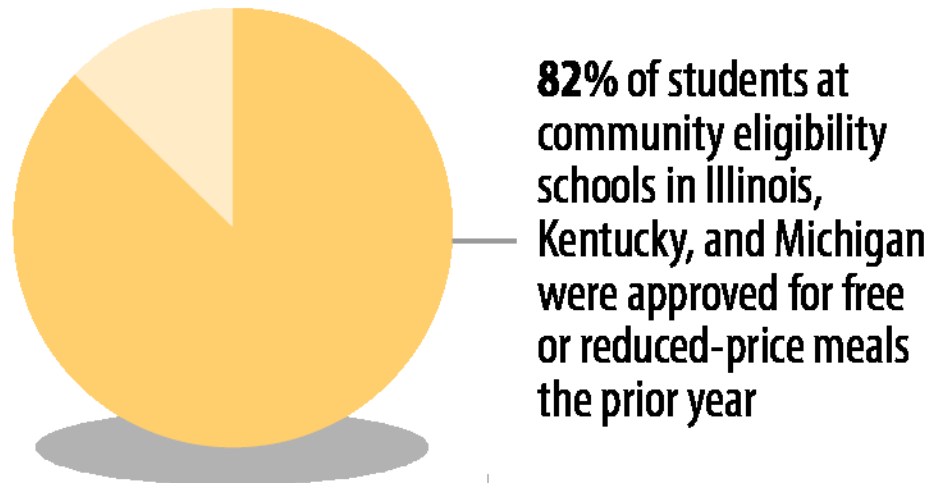
State	Number of Community Eligibility Schools
District of Columbia	122
Illinois	454
Kentucky	267
Michigan	519
New York	326
Ohio	303
West Virginia	282
Total	2,273

Nearly 1 Million Children Are Already Benefitting From Community Eligibility



Source: Center on Budget Policy and Priorities analysis of U.S. Department of Agriculture data, U.S. Department of Education data, and data collected directly from these states

Community Eligibility Helps High-Poverty Schools

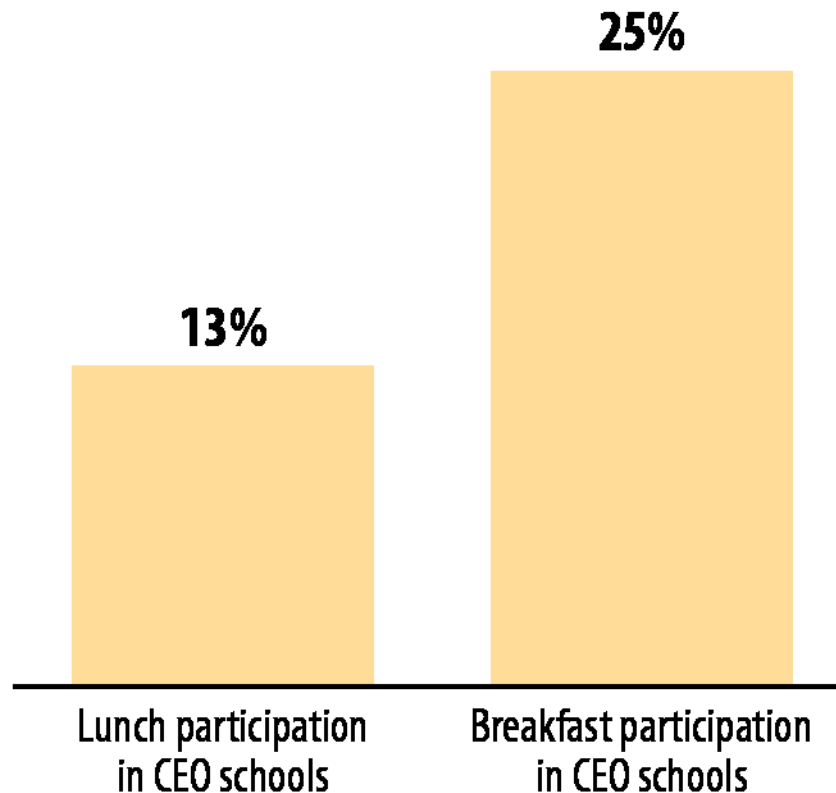


Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture data and data collected directly from these states

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Lunch And Breakfast Participation Increase Under Community Eligibility

Increase in participation between October 2010
and October 2012 in schools that operated
under community eligibility for two years



Feedback From Community Eligibility Schools

- All school districts that implemented the option the first year and were surveyed by FRAC would recommend community eligibility to high poverty schools like their own
- School districts report positive feedback from parents and school staff
- Increased ability to feed more students
- Some districts report an increase in revenue



Breakfast In The Classroom

Community eligibility helps schools build stronger breakfast in the classroom programs by making it easier for schools implementing alternative service models — like “grab and go” — to offer breakfast to all students at no charge.

- West Virginia requires all community eligibility schools to implement at least one innovative breakfast strategy — breakfast after the bell, breakfast in the classroom, or “grab and go” breakfast — and breakfast participation increased by 10 percent
- Breakfast participation doubled in Floyd County, KY when it implemented community eligibility and breakfast in the classroom simultaneously
- When Detroit, MI adopted community eligibility, even though it had already implemented breakfast in the classroom in all K-8 schools, breakfast participation increased by 15 percent



Key Steps To Prepare For Implementation

- Promote community eligibility and provide multiple opportunities for school districts to learn about it
 - Sample presentations, OpEd
- Calculate the financial impact using USDA's calculator that allows districts to estimate their federal reimbursements under community eligibility
- Improve direct certification systems and procedures to identify all children eligible for free school meals without an application
 - SNAP outreach, certification of all children in a SNAP household

Key Steps To Prepare For Implementation

- Set up a work group of staff from the child nutrition agency and different offices within the education department (such as Title I, assessment, school funding, accountability, and E-rate) to address any issues that might arise when school meal applications are not collected
- Prepare to publish lists of eligible and near-eligible schools
- Create simple administrative processes so districts can sign up for community eligibility and submit simplified claims

Preparing For Implementation

New Resources Coming Soon:

- Proposed Federal Regulations for Community Eligibility
- Expanded guidance from the US Department of Education

Community Eligibility Resources

NEW MATERIALS

- *Community Eligibility: Making High-Poverty Schools Hunger Free*
- Report Summary - A Powerful Tool in the Fight Against Child Hunger
- A Guide to Implementing Community Eligibility
- Power Point Presentation
- Sample op-ed

OTHER MATERIALS

- Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs
- Sample letter to school district
- Sample School Board presentation

Materials Now Available at <http://frac.org/community-eligibility/>

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CEO in Ohio: Synopsis of Year 1

Brigette Hires, PhD, RD, LD

Ohio | Department
of Education

Profile of School Year (SY) 2013 CEO Schools in Ohio

- 78 LEAs participated in SY 2013 including:
 - 21 public school districts
 - 56 community schools
 - 1 parochial school
- 303 building sites
- Larger school districts participating:
 - Cleveland City Schools - Dayton
 - Springfield - Akron
 - Youngstown -Warren

Profile of School Year 2014 CEO Schools in Ohio

- Only 1 SFA representing 1 school dropped participation
- Adopting CEO in 2014:
 - 52 additional SFAs representing 100 schools
- Total: 129 SFAs and 402 sites

CEO Deployment: CEO Workgroup

- ODE convened a work group of internal stakeholders including:
 - Office for Child Nutrition
 - Office for Federal Programs
 - Office of School Finance
 - Office of Community Schools
 - Office for Assessment
 - Office for Accountability
 - ODE Legal Council
 - Office of Fiscal Services – Grants Management
 - Office for Policy and Research

CEO Deployment: CEO Workgroup

- Workgroup mission to identify and overcome potential barriers of CEO program participation both at the ODE and SFA level
- Workgroup publications:
 - CEO webpage within the ODE website
 - Ohio Household Income Form
 - Federal Programs
 - CEO Guidance – Accountability
 - Title 1 CEO Guidance Document

CEO Deployment: Review of State Law

- The ODE workgroup reviewed State laws to determine impact on funding, school resources and or required data sources.
 - In Ohio, charter (community) schools must report “current year” poverty data per pupil for state funding calculation purposes
 - Ohio revised code requires public schools to wave instructional fees for students qualifying for free meals

CEO Deployment: Webinars

- ODE conducted multiple webinars and developed a CEO participant listserv during the implementation year. The following webinar topics were offered:
 - Introductory webinar for all potential CEO schools
 - Commencing the CEO for SFAs that adopted CEO
 - The Verification Process and CEO
 - Navigating the CEO Audit Process

CEO Deployment: CEO Audits

- ODE audited records for all SFAs that adopted CEO in 2013
- Most audits resulted in very close identified student and enrollment counts as compared to SFA reported counts
- Recurrent issues included:
 - Including foster children as an identified student based on a paper application with no court documentation backup
 - Extending the direct certification benefits to additional household members without documentation
 - Counting withdrawn students in the enrollment count
 - Reporting free and reduced counts as the identified student count

Contact ODE

- Office for Child Nutrition
 - Phone number: 1-800-808-6325
 - Contact me:
Brigette.Hires@education.ohio.gov
 - Website: www.education.ohio.gov
 - Search Community Eligibility

Cabell County Schools Food Service Program



Dedicated to the health and wellness of every student.



Cabell County's Food Service Program

- Pilot Program
- Universal Free Meals
- CEO

Cabell County's Food Service Program

- Example of QUALIFYING SCHOOLS 40% or above

	%DC	% Free Rate
Petyon Elementary	85.13	136.21
Central City Elem.	82.19	131.50
Spring Hill Elem.	78.32	125.31
Guyandotte Elem.	70.68	113.09
Altizer Elem.	64.53	103.25
Enslow Middle	63.64	101.82

PK Centers

Community Eligibility Option (CEO) Worksheet

Traditional Method					
Breakfasts		Total Meals Claimed	Lunches		Total Meals Claimed
	Free	318,147		Free	470,319
	Reduced-Price	26,542		Reduced-Price	47,584
	Paid	67,788		Paid	144,309
	Total Breakfasts Claimed	412,477		Total Lunches Claimed	662,212
		Student Prices			Student Prices
	Reduced-Price	\$0.30		Reduced-Price	\$0.40
	Paid	\$1.35		Paid	\$1.75
Total Breakfast Revenue		\$730,256.76	Total Lunch Revenue		\$1,737,896.64
Total Revenue Based on Traditional Claiming: \$2,468,153.40					

Community Eligibility Option (CEO) Method

1	Enrollment	5,398	5	Total Breakfasts Claimed	412,477
	Identified Students	3,141			
2	% of Identified Students	58.19%	6	Total Lunches Claimed	662,212
3	% of Meals Reimbursed at Free Rate	93.10%	7	Total Breakfast Revenue	\$698,920.65
4	% of Meals Reimbursed at the Paid Rate	6.90%	8	Total Lunch Revenue	\$1,732,902.07

Total Revenue Based on CEO Claiming: \$2,431,822.73

Increase in Meals Served	
Breakfast % Increase	30%
Lunch % Increase	10%
Increased Breakfast Revenue	\$ 908,596.85
Increased Lunch Revenue	\$ 1,906,192.28
Total Revenue: \$2,814,789.13	
Consider CEO at this Level	



Cabell County's Food Service Program

TEAMWORK

- Office of Child Nutrition
- Administration
- Principals
- Teachers
- Cooks
- Custodians
- Parents

Cabell County's Food Service Program

Breakfast After First

Grab and Go

Breakfast in the Classroom



Students are served breakfast later in the morning to increase participation and ensure all students eat a healthy breakfast.

Cabell County's Food Service Program

Breakfast Variations

Example:

Peyton Elem.	Regular Bkft + Grab n Go Breakfast-After First
Salt Rock Elem.	Breakfast in Classroom-After First
Cabell Midland	Grab n Go Breakfast
Guyandotte Elem.	Breakfast in Cafeteria-After First
Beverly Hills	Breakfast After First- Cafeteria/Hallway

Cabell County's Food Service Program

- Provide Needed Supplies/Equipment

Carts

Coolers

Trash Cans/Liners

Wagons

Convection Ovens

Point of Service Computers

Cabell County's Food Service Program

Meal Organization

- Menus
- Staffing
- Food
- Supplies



Cabell County's Food Service Program

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Cabell County's Food Service Program

Results in Participation Breakfast

Spring Hill	43.41 to 75.70%
Salt Rock	32.22 to 71.86%
Culloden	37.60 to 72.69%
Guyandotte	52.22 to 73.77%

Cabell County's Food Service Program

Participation Comparison

2011-2012

Breakfast 775,154

Lunch 1,414,558

2012-2013

Breakfast 1,129,600

Lunch 1,450,231

Increase 345,446

Increase 35,673



Cabell County's Food Service Program

Financial Outcomes

Increase Federal Reimbursements \$1,300,000.00

Decrease Cash Collections \$189,907.00

Decrease Sponsor Contribution \$175,192.82

Increase Carryover by \$60,686.97



Cabell County's Food Service Program

Advantages

- Improvement of Student Nutritional Wellbeing
- Increase Meal Participation
- Improved Student Performance
- Decrease Student Absences
- Decrease Student Tardiness

Cabell County's Food Service Program

Other Advantages

- Relief of Financial Burden to Parent
- Less Paperwork—F/R
Applications/Verification/Paid Lunch Equity
- Collections of Unpaid Accounts
- Provide Additional Revenue for Food Service Program



Cabell County's Food Service Program

West Virginia's

Feed To Achieve

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Food Service Director
Cabell County Schools
(304) 528-5048
rgmccoy@access.k12.wv.us

Discussion

All Questions and Comments are
Welcomed and Encouraged!!

Thank you!

Register for our Upcoming Calls and Webinars at
<http://frac.org>

Breakfast Matters:

The Value of Principal Engagement – November 14

Afterschool Meals Matter:

Serving Meals on Weekends and Holidays – October 16

Sustainable Afterschool Meal Programs – November 20

Summer Meals Matter:

Asset Mapping – November 5