

# The Facts on School Lunch Participation

The number of kids eating school meals changed before the updated nutrition standards

■ Total ■ Free ■ Full ■ Reduced



## Many factors impact participation

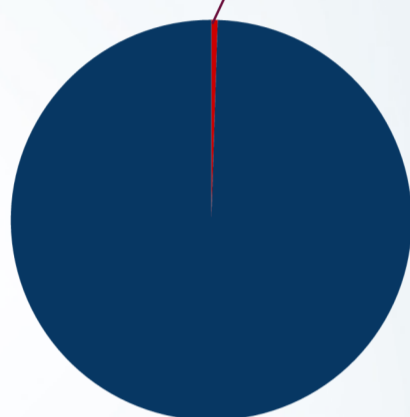
### Factors

- The recession
- Sales of competitive foods
- Increased charges for paid meals
- Time to eat
- Long lunch lines
- School closures, consolidations

Data source: Government Accountability Office, 2014

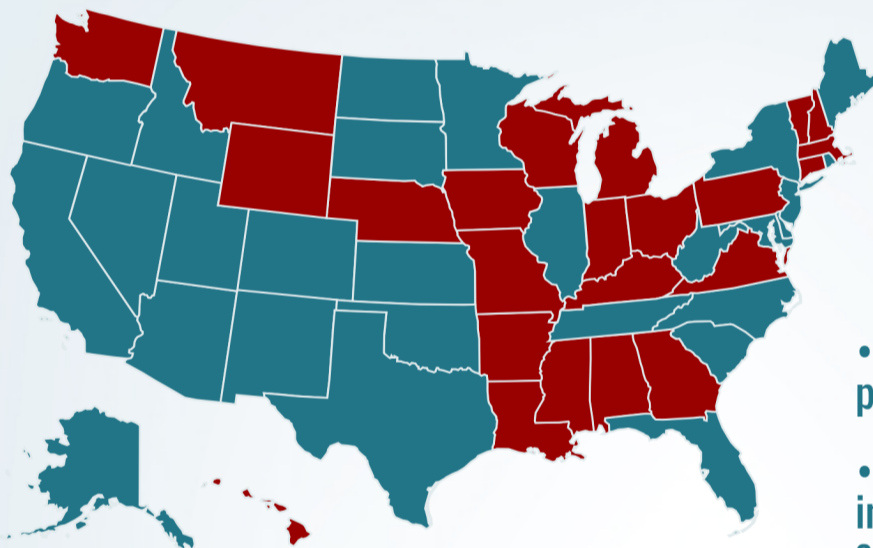
### Are schools dropping out of the National School Lunch Program?

0.51% of schools dropped out due to updated standards



Data source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2015

## School Lunch Participation Up in Over Half of States (2014-2015)



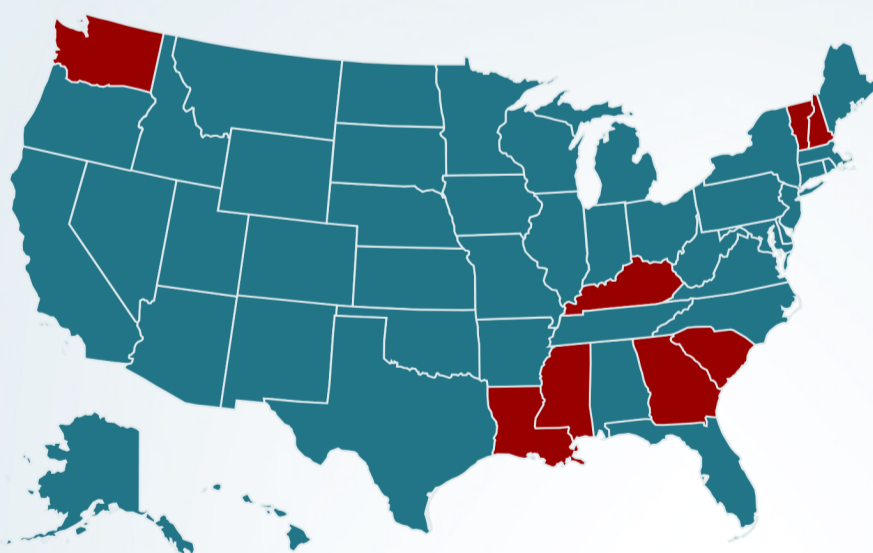
■ Increased ■ Decreased



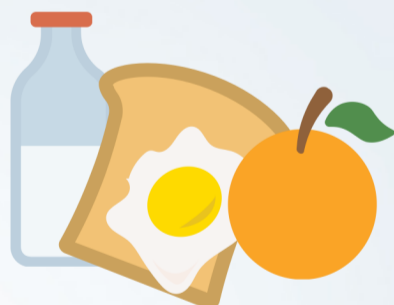
- 27 states have increased participation from 2014 to 2015
- Nationwide total participation increased 0.5% from 30.4m to 30.5m children from 2014 to 2015

Data source: U.S. Department of Agriculture from April, 2014 to April, 2015

## School Breakfast Participation Up in 4 out of 5 States (2014-2015)



■ Increased ■ Decreased



- 42 states have increased participation from 2014 to 2015
- Nationwide the total participation increased 2.9% from 13.6m to 13.9m children from 2014 to 2015

Data source: U.S. Department of Agriculture from April, 2014 to April, 2015

## Increase Participation Without Sacrificing Child Nutrition

Many schools are using simple techniques to increase participation in their school meals programs, such as:

- Engage students with taste tests
- Cut up fruit and vegetables
- Place fruit/vegetables before other options on serving line
- Create fun names for fruits and vegetables
- Place milk out front in lunchroom coolers
- Highlight an entrée on the lunch line
- Introduce a "healthy choices only" convenience line



#healthiernextgen bit.ly/CNParticipation

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