

## Receipt of Report

### Date:

December 13, 2021 (BOE-Receipt of Report)

### Agenda Item:

District Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Report 2021-22

### Building:

All

### Proposed Action:

Information only

### Identified Need:

The purpose of this report is to provide the district's 2021-22 free and reduced lunch percentages, and to discuss trends in Free & Reduced-Price Lunch across racial/ethnic representations.

### Authority of Action:

Each year, the Research Division staff oversees the preparation of this report.

### Stakeholder Groups involved in the development of the proposal:

N/A

### Fiscal Impact:

N/A

### Next Steps:

N/A

### Monitoring and Reporting Timeline:

This is the only official reporting of this information.

### Additional Considerations:

- The 2021-22 PK-12 Free and Reduced-Price Lunch count is 35,903 students or 69.5 percent of all students which is decrease of 7.9% from 2020-21.
- On average, 46.4% of all PK-12 public school students across Douglas and Sarpy County participate in the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch program.
- The Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) program percentages included in this report are likely artificially low because of the USDA waiver allowing school district to serve all students school meals free of cost in 2021-22. This practice lowers the number of meal applications received from families who are not directly certified.

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**

**FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH 2021-22**

Since 1994, the Nebraska Department of Education has required all Nebraska school districts to report the number of students in each school approved for free or reduced-price lunch as of October 1 each school year. Families of students submit applications indicating financial need for participation in the National School Lunch Program or they are directly certified by Nutrition Services through state databases.

While not required, application for the federal meal program is strongly encouraged by schools. Nationally, participation in this program, although not the best indicator, is typically the only indicator of socioeconomics available to school districts. The percentages included in this report for 2021-22 are likely artificially low because of the USDA waiver allowing school district to serve all students school meals free of cost in 2021-22. This practice lowers the number of meal applications received from families who are not directly certified. Conversely, percentage for 2020-21 were higher than in most years because students who had not returned an application were not removed after the 30 days of school mark because of the impact of COVID-19, per the Nebraska Department of Education.

It should also be noted that, because application to the National School Lunch Program is not required, percentages of students approved on the high school level are typically lower than the elementary and middle school levels. This does not reflect higher socioeconomic levels for these students, but, rather, a tendency for older students to choose not to apply.

Lastly, five Omaha Public Schools' elementary schools are voluntarily participating in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all students within districts and schools with high poverty rates. Since the 14-15 school year, OPS has utilized this program at: Druid Hill, Franklin, Kennedy, King Elementary, and Lothrop. This program impacts the results provided in this report for these five schools and the district total. Lunch applications are not collected from families at these buildings and identification of free or reduced lunch eligibility is only done via direct certification with the state or through a family application from another school.

Attached are various charts reflecting numbers of students participating in the National School Lunch Program. While the Nebraska Department of Education began requiring this information in 1994, the Omaha Public Schools has collected the data since the 1988-89 school year. Data are masked in this report where groups of ten or less could allow for identification.

Chart I	Shows historical percentage by race/ethnicity.
Charts II – IV	Show district totals by grade and race/ethnicity for free lunch only, reduced-price lunch only, and free/reduced-price lunch, respectively.
Chart V	Show individual school totals for free lunch only, reduced-price lunch only, and free/reduced-price lunch.
Presentation	PowerPoint presentation depicting key points, free and reduced lunch maps, and historical percentage by race/ethnicity.

Prepared by:  
Scott SchmidtBonne  
Executive Director of Research  
12/13/2021

Approved by:  
Dr. Cheryl Logan  
Superintendent of Schools

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**CHART I**  
**2002-2003 - 2021-2022**  
**PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ON FREE & REDUCED LUNCH**  
**BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

Year	Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	White	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Total
2021-22	78.3	75.7	81.9	41.1	74.6	75.0	65.9	69.5
2020-21	87.9	82.3	89.1	47.4	86.1	81.3	74.2	77.4
2019-20	86.0	83.7	87.0	45.3	85.3	74.6	70.6	74.9
2018-19	87.3	85.8	87.3	45.9	84.8	74.7	71.3	75.3
2017-18	89.7	87.6	88.4	46.6	85.9	72.9	72.5	76.5
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2011-12	89.0	83.5	87.6	41.8	75.0	84.5	71.2	71.5
2010-11*	87.6	78.9	85.1	39.6	70.5	80.3	68.4	69.1
2009-10	87.4	78.8	82.9	40.8	58.3	-	-	67.2
2008-09	82.5	74.1	77.8	37.3	50.6	-	-	62.3
2007-08	82.3	73.5	78.7	37.6	43.1	-	-	62.0
2006-07	81.2	73.7	77.7	36.4	41.4	-	-	60.1
2005-06	70.6	66.6	69.1	33.6	36.3	-	-	53.2
2004-05	73.5	69.9	73.1	34.4	39.3	-	-	54.8
2003-04	73.4	74.3	75.9	34.6	38.7	-	-	55.2
2002-03	75.1	71.5	74.3	34.4	40.8	-	-	54.2

\*New race/ethnicity collection guidelines begin



**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CHART V  
FREE & REDUCED  
2021-2022 FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM  
BY SCHOOL**

School	Free	% Free	Reduced	% Reduced	Free & Reduced	% Free & Reduced	Total Enrollment
<b>SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS</b>							
Benson Magnet*	931	66.0	138	9.8	1,069	75.8	1,410
Bryan High*	1,096	63.7	205	11.9	1,301	75.6	1,721
Burke High	779	37.2	167	8.0	946	45.2	2,095
Central High	1,265	47.3	177	6.6	1,442	54.0	2,672
North Magnet	966	56.4	150	8.8	1,116	65.1	1,714
Northwest High*	912	57.2	182	11.4	1,094	68.6	1,594
South Magnet*	1,793	63.6	443	15.7	2,236	79.3	2,821
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,742</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9,204</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>14,027</b>
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>							
Beveridge Magnet	418	48.3	112	12.9	530	61.3	865
Bryan Middle*	595	69.3	130	15.1	725	84.4	859
A. Buffett Magnet	347	32.1	87	8.0	434	40.1	1,081
Davis Middle	299	40.8	77	10.5	376	51.4	732
King Science Magnet*	478	69.9	71	10.4	549	80.3	684
Lewis & Clark Middle	494	56.7	79	9.1	573	65.8	871
Marrs Magnet*	848	70.0	183	15.1	1,031	85.1	1,212
McMillan Magnet*	551	70.6	70	9.0	621	79.6	780
Monroe Middle*	591	71.5	86	10.4	677	81.9	827
Morton Magnet	415	58.1	81	11.3	496	69.5	714
Nathan Hale Middle*	435	68.2	70	11.0	505	79.2	638
Norris Middle*	848	69.1	131	10.7	979	79.7	1,228
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,319</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>7,496</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>10,491</b>
<b>OTHER SECONDARY</b>							
Accelere	108	61.4	16	9.1	124	70.5	176
Adult High School	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	2
Blackburn High	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	72	82.8	87
ESL Teen Literacy	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	37	45.7	81
Gateway to College	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	14
Homebound	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	2
Independent Study Program	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	66	68.0	97
Integrated Learning Program @ Saratoga	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	64	77.1	83
Interim/Contracted Secondary	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	12	8.5	141
Lord	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	20	46.5	43
Omaha Virtual High School	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	31	39.7	78
Omaha Virtual Middle School	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	35	39.3	89
Parrish	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	69
Secondary Success Program	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	9
Transition Program North	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	35	46.1	76
Transition Program South	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	29	58.0	50
Transition Program at UNMC	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	7
UNO/OPS Middle College Program	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	17	40.5	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>1,146</b>
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>14,614</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>2,706</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>17,320</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>25,664</b>
<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>							
Adams Elementary*	148	58.3	32	12.6	180	70.9	254
Ashland Park/RobbinsElementary*	550	69.3	108	13.6	658	82.9	794
Bancroft Elementary*	500	68.3	61	8.3	561	76.6	732
Beals*	153	55.4	42	15.2	195	70.7	276
Belle Ryan Elementary*	169	57.3	32	10.8	201	68.1	295
Belvedere Elementary*	328	82.2	33	8.3	361	90.5	399
Benson West Elementary*	296	72.9	46	11.3	342	84.2	406
Boyd Elementary*	292	57.4	50	9.8	342	67.2	509
Castelar Elementary*	430	69.8	53	8.6	483	78.4	616
Catlin Magnet	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	64	49.6	129
Central Park Elementary*	282	82.0	21	6.1	303	88.1	344
Chandler View Elementary*	390	67.4	78	13.5	468	80.8	579
Columbian Elementary	57	22.0	19	7.3	76	29.3	259
Conestoga Magnet*	283	86.3	17	5.2	300	91.5	328
Crestridge Magnet	145	38.3	38	10.0	183	48.3	379
Dodge Elementary*	211	53.1	55	13.9	266	67.0	397
Druid Hill Elementary*	275	85.4	22	6.8	297	92.2	322
Dundee Elementary	145	33.0	28	6.4	173	39.4	439
Edison Elementary*	230	63.7	34	9.4	264	73.1	361
Field Club Elementary*	421	71.1	56	9.5	477	80.6	592
Florence Elementary*	184	78.3	21	8.9	205	87.2	235
Fontenelle Elementary*	346	76.7	48	10.6	394	87.4	451
Franklin Elementary*	263	81.7	22	6.8	285	88.5	322

**OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CHART V  
FREE & REDUCED  
2021-2022 FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM  
BY SCHOOL**

School	Free	% Free	Reduced	% Reduced	Free & Reduced	% Free & Reduced	Total Enrollment
Fullerton Magnet	164	36.7	22	4.9	186	41.6	447
Gateway Elementary*	508	58.5	105	12.1	613	70.5	869
Gifford Park Elementary*	245	73.1	27	8.1	272	81.2	335
Gilder Elementary*	196	60.5	38	11.7	234	72.2	324
Gomez Heritage Elementary*	498	66.4	106	14.1	604	80.5	750
Harrison Elementary	85	32.9	14	5.4	99	38.4	258
Hartman Elementary*	318	73.6	47	10.9	365	84.5	432
Highland Elementary*	294	71.0	60	14.5	354	85.5	414
Indian Hill Elementary*	485	76.5	81	12.8	566	89.3	634
Jackson Elementary*	151	60.4	15	6.0	166	66.4	250
Jefferson Elementary*	299	66.7	59	13.2	358	79.9	448
Joslyn Elementary	111	40.7	30	11.0	141	51.6	273
Kellom Elementary*	263	84.8	22	7.1	285	91.9	310
Kennedy Elementary*	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	197	92.5	213
King Elementary*	270	81.8	18	5.5	288	87.3	330
Liberty Elementary*	493	75.8	43	6.6	536	82.5	650
Lothrop Magnet Elementary*	283	79.9	30	8.5	313	88.4	354
Masters Elementary*	141	58.8	14	5.8	155	64.6	240
Miller Park Elementary*	323	80.5	22	5.5	345	86.0	401
Minne Lusa Elementary*	269	79.4	29	8.6	298	87.9	339
Mount View Elementary*	214	74.3	28	9.7	242	84.0	288
Oak Valley Elementary*	122	54.5	23	10.3	145	64.7	224
Pawnee Elementary*	192	47.5	45	11.1	237	58.7	404
Picotte Elementary	83	28.4	17	5.8	100	34.2	292
Pinewood Elementary*	138	56.6	45	18.4	183	75.0	244
Ponca Elementary	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	52	43.3	120
Prairie Wind Elementary	359	53.9	61	9.2	420	63.1	666
Rose Hill Elementary*	138	54.1	27	10.6	165	64.7	255
Saddlebrook Elementary	68	15.1	17	3.8	85	18.8	451
Sherman Elementary*	199	85.0	17	7.3	216	92.3	234
Skinner Magnet*	335	80.1	24	5.7	359	85.9	418
Spring Lake Magnet*	486	69.7	86	12.3	572	82.1	697
Springville Elementary	176	42.7	65	15.8	241	58.5	412
Standing Bear Elementary	152	27.2	28	5.0	180	32.3	558
Sunny Slope Elementary	223	54.0	40	9.7	263	63.7	413
Wakonda Elementary*	216	73.5	30	10.2	246	83.7	294
Walnut Hill Elementary*	302	80.3	44	11.7	346	92.0	376
Washington Elementary	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	153	51.3	298
Western Hills Magnet*	221	61.6	35	9.7	256	71.3	359
Wilson Focus School	91	43.3	28	13.3	119	56.7	210
<b>Total Elementary</b>	<b>15,638</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>18,033</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>24,902</b>
<b>OTHER ELEMENTARY</b>							
Early Childhood - Educare Indian Hill	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	185
Early Childhood - Educare Kellom	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	158
Early Learning Center 0-3 at Gateway	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	38
Early Learning Center 0-3 at Kennedy	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	14
Early Learning Center PK at Gateway	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	62	80.5	77
Early Learning Center PK at Kennedy	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	58	82.9	70
Homebased PK	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	365
Homebound	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	3
Integrated Learning Program @ Skinner	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	18
Interim/Contracted Elementary	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	51
Lord JP	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	18
Omaha Virtual Elementary School	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	MASKED	58	52.3	111
<b>Other Elementary Totals</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>1,108</b>
<b>Total Elementary</b>	<b>16,175</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>18,583</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>26,010</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>30,789</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>35,903</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>51,674</b>

MASKED: Data are masked where groups of ten or less could allow for identification.

\* Title 1

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program at these schools allows for all students enrolled to receive free lunch as a result of the neighborhood and student level poverty at the building. Lunch applications are not collected from families at these buildings and identification of free or reduced lunch eligibility is only done via direct certification with the state or through a family application from another school.



# 2021-22 DISTRICT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 13, 2021





# KEY POINTS

- OPS PK-12 student participation in the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) program is 69.5 percent for 2021-22. This percentage represents a 15.3 percentage point increase since 2002-03 and a 7.9 percentage point decrease since 2020-21 .
- The number of students participating the in the FRPL program has increased by 44 percent since 2002-03, growing from 24,933 students in 02-03 to 35,903 in 2021-22.
- Consistent with prior years, OPS student participation is higher at elementary grades than at the secondary grades with 71.3 percent of PK-6 students enrolled in the FRPL program compared to 67.1 percent of students in grades 7-12.
- The Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) program percentages included in this report are likely artificially low because of the USDA waiver allowing school district to serve all students school meals free of cost in 2021-22. This practice lowers the number of meal applications received from families who are not directly certified.
- The Average FRPL percentage for Douglas and Sarpy County public school districts in 2021-20 is 46.4 percent while roughly 46 percent of all public school students in the state participate in the FRPL program.





# KEY POINTS

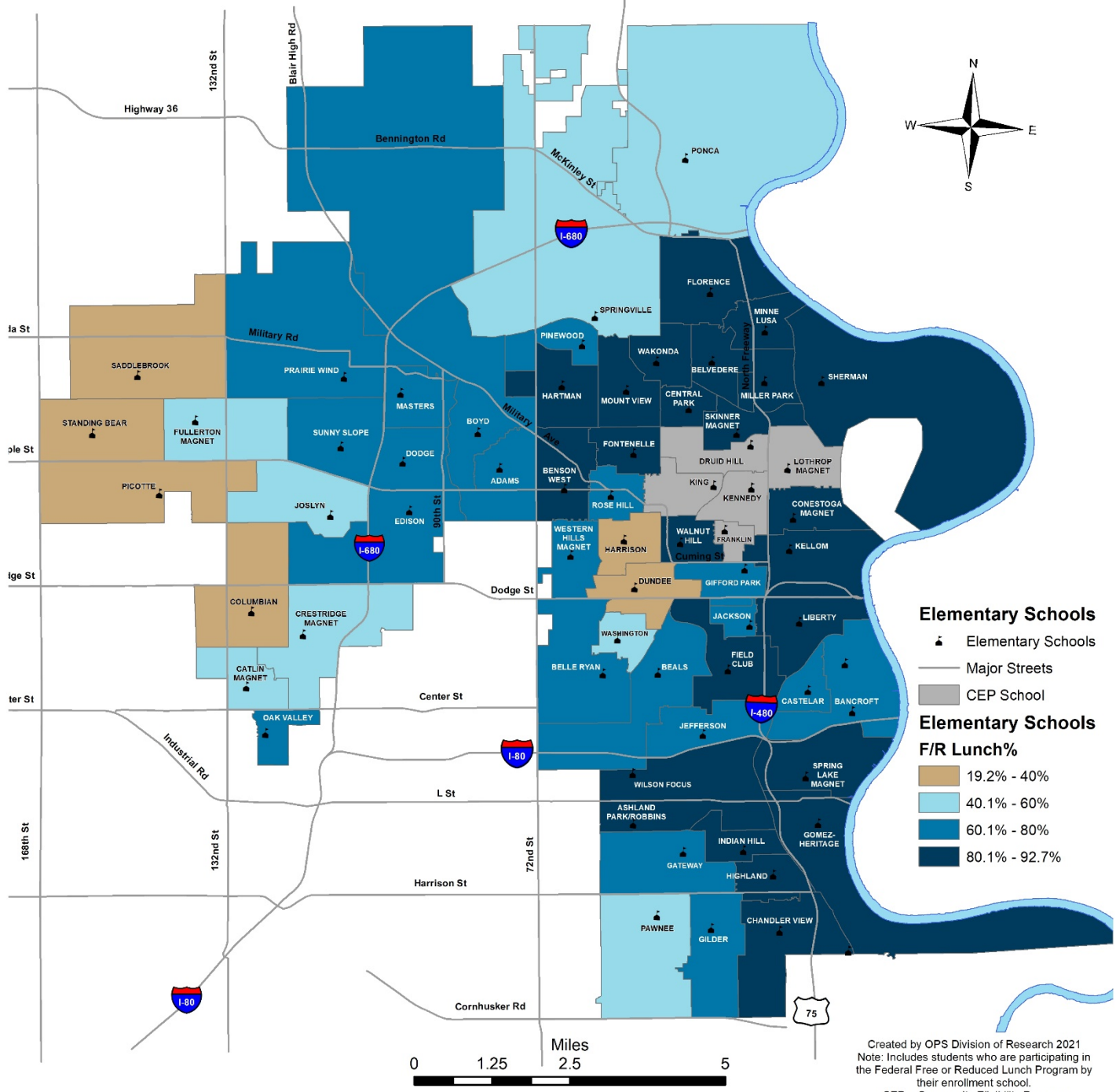
- In OPS, of the 35,903 PK-12 students who participate in the FRPL program, 59.6 percent of these students qualify for Free lunch rather than Reduced-Price lunch which indicates a more intense level of socio-economic need.
- Although not the most precise indicator of poverty, student participation in the FRPL program is the only indicator of socio-economic status universally available to public schools across the nation and has been shown to be highly predictive of district and school level performance (status scores) on summative, point-in-time national and state assessments.
- The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program at five elementary schools allows for all students enrolled to receive free lunch as a result of the neighborhood and school poverty levels. Lunch applications are not collected from families at these buildings and identification of free or reduced lunch eligibility is only done via direct certification with the state or through a family application from another school.
- This report uses the F/R lunch status as of 10/26/2021 for students enrolled on 10/1/2021.





# OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PERCENT BY ENROLLMENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-6): 2021-22

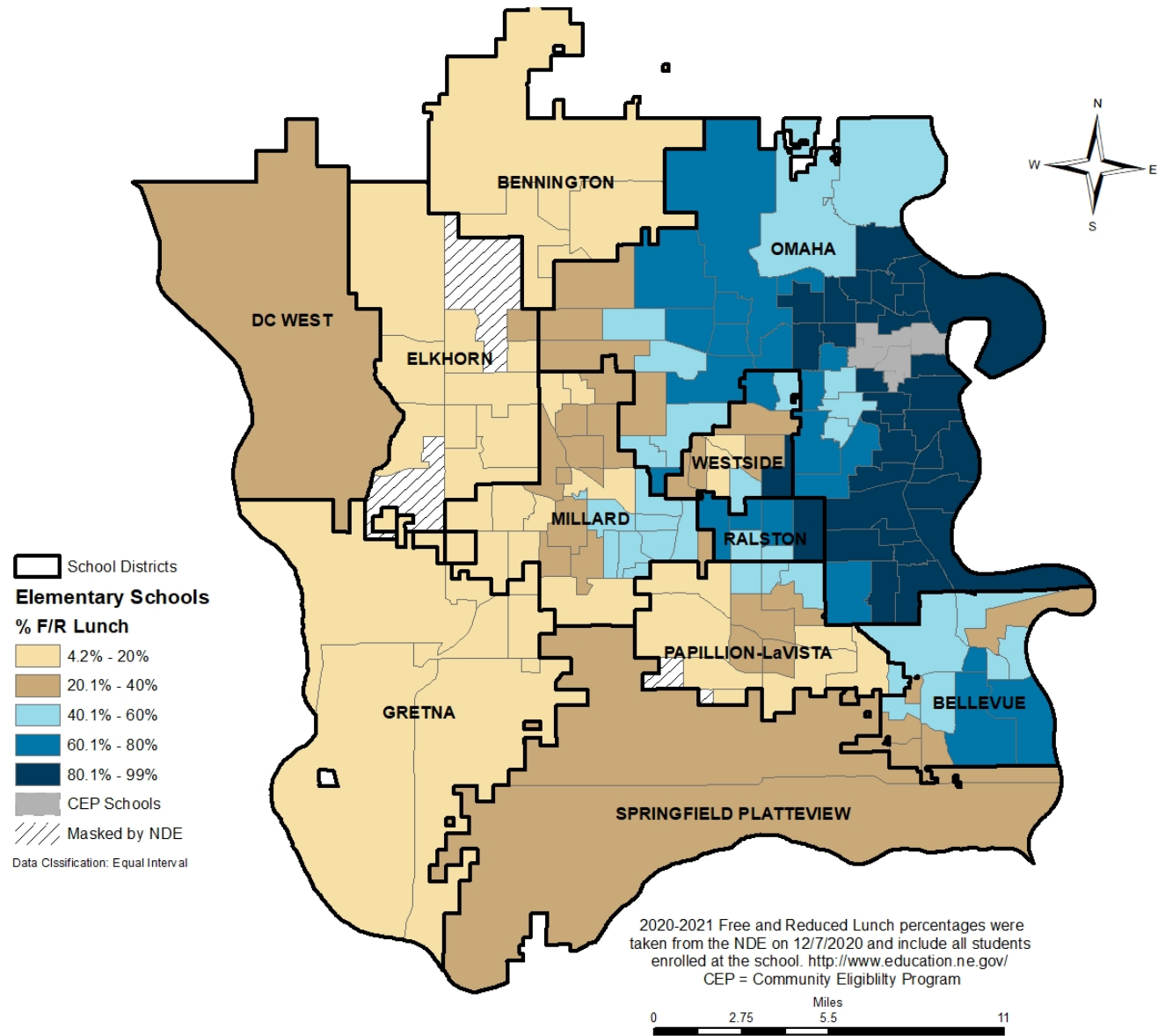
The highest FRPL populations are located in the eastern portion of the district generally east of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. The OPS district FRPL percentage is 69.5%.



# LEARNING COMMUNITY FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PERCENT BY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: 2020-21

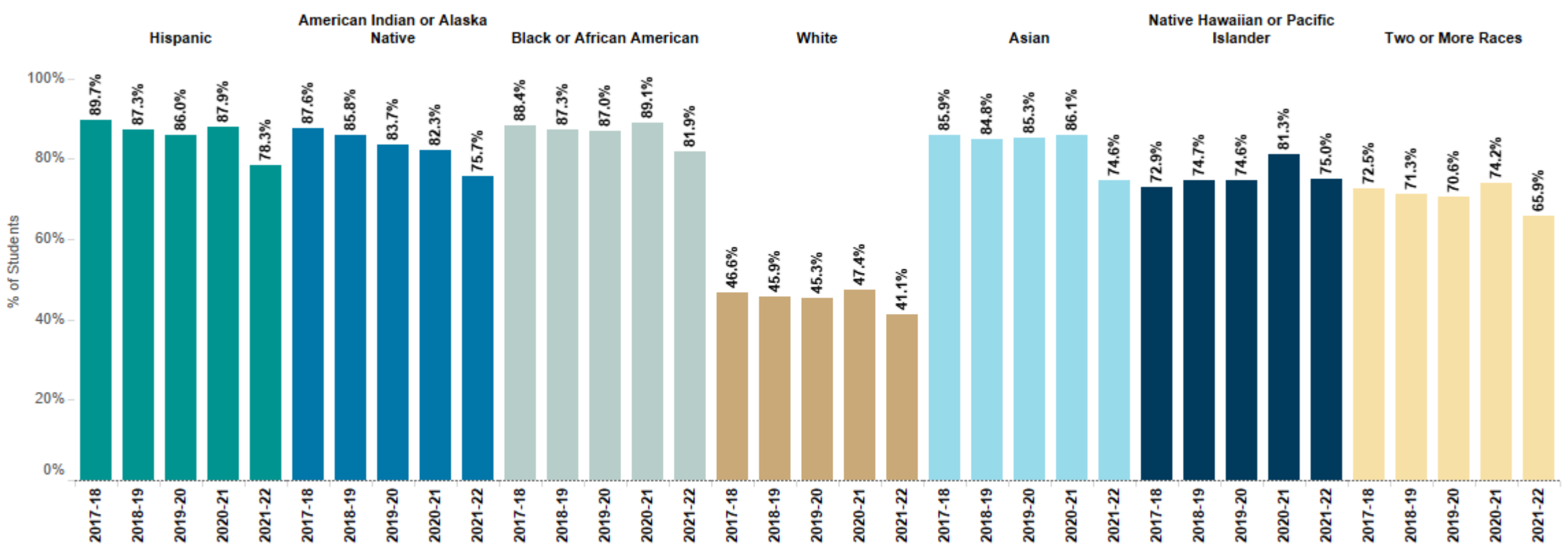
Based on the FRPL population enrolled across Douglas and Sarpy County elementary schools, poverty is generally concentrated in the urban core of the two-county area and less pronounced in outlying suburban areas. On average, 47% of all public school students across the two counties participate in the FRPL program.

Note: 2021-22 Nebraska Department of Education FRPL data were not available at the time this report was produced.





# FIVE YEAR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH HISTORY BY RACE/ETHNICITY 2017-18 to 2021-22



# FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH HISTORY BY RACE/ETHNICITY: 2002-03 to 2021-22

Year	Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	White	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Total
2021-22	78.3	75.7	81.9	41.1	74.6	75.0	65.9	69.5
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2004-05	73.5	69.9	73.1	34.4	39.3	-	-	54.8
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2002-03	75.1	71.5	74.3	34.4	40.8	-	-	54.2

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Thank you.

