

# Data Report

Series 2010-07D

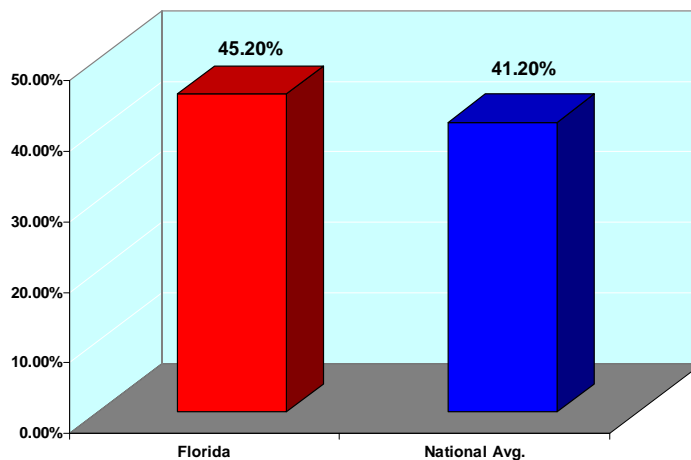
September 2009

## *Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility*

### National School Lunch Program Participation: Florida and the Nation

The National School Lunch Program, established in 1946 under the National School Lunch Act, provides free and reduced-price lunches to schoolchildren from economically disadvantaged families. The program operates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Department of Defense schools. Each year, the United States Department of Agriculture ([www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)) publishes income guidelines for program eligibility that factor household income and size in relation to federal poverty guidelines. In 2009-10, for instance, a student from a four-person household in Florida with annual household income less than \$28,665 is eligible for free lunches. Current and prior-year income eligibility guidelines are available online at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm>.

**Figure 1: Percent of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch, 2006-07**



In 2006-07, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES),\* more than 20.3 million students (41.20%) in reporting states and the District of Columbia were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. In the same year, more than 1.2 million students (45.20%) in Florida were eligible. As the fourth most-populous state, Florida's free and reduced-price lunch figure is comparable with the three most populous states, Texas (47.24%), California (48.68%), and New York (43.74%). Additional state-level information is provided in Table 4 on page 5.

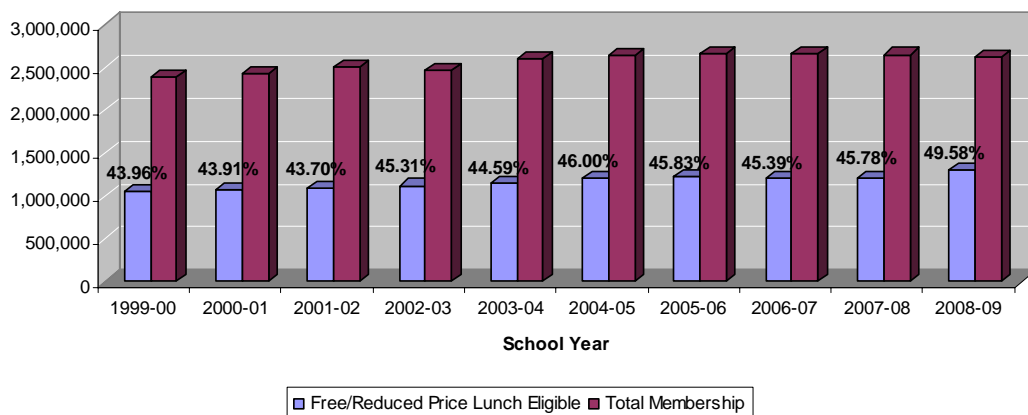
\*NCES, Common Core of Data. <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/>.

### Florida Update (2008-09)

Eligibility for free/reduced-price lunch in Florida's schools continued on a gradual, long-term upward trend for several years. The ten-year numerical increase during this period amounts to 257,214 students (1,047,647 in 1999-2000 vs. 1,304,861 in 2008-09), a cumulative increase of 24.69 percent in ten years. Thirty-seven districts reported 50 percent or more of their enrollment eligible for free/reduced-price lunch in 2008-09, as compared to only twenty-five districts ten years prior.

In 2008-09, St. Johns County had the lowest percentage of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch (18.92 percent), and Gadsden County had the highest percentage (89.28 percent). Osceola County had the largest percentage gain in eligible students, from 44.35 percent in 1999-2000 to 65.11 percent in 2008-09.

**Figure 2: Ten-Year Comparison**



Note: Variability in factors such as the date of data compilation and certain selection criteria may result in slight differences between results reported for Florida by NCES and corresponding statewide results reported for Florida public schools by the Florida Department of Education.

**Race Distribution (Florida)**

Among racial/ethnic groups in 2008-09, the black and Hispanic populations had the largest percentages of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, followed by the white population. The Hispanic population experienced a significant increase in free/reduced price lunch eligibility over the last ten years. American Indian, Asian, and multiracial populations also showed slight increases in their percentages of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. The following tables provide additional detail.

**Table 1: Percentage of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch**

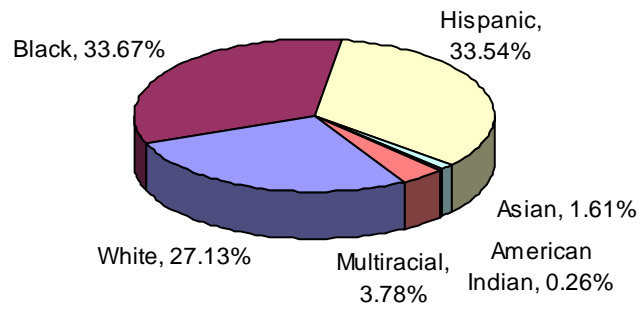
Race	School Year 2008-09	School Year 1999-00
White	29.77%	26.27%
Black	72.26%	69.59%
Hispanic	66.27%	62.38%
Asian	32.58%	31.98%
American Indian	45.47%	42.44%
Multiracial	48.49%	44.68%
Total	49.58%	43.98%

**Table 2: Proportional Changes by Race: Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch**

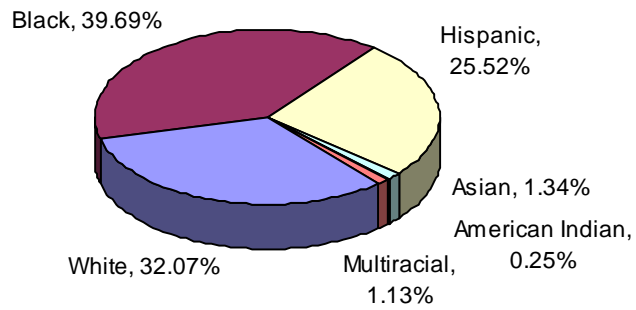
Race	2008-09	1999-00	Change
White	27.13%	32.07%	-4.95%
Black	33.67%	39.69%	-6.02%
Hispanic	33.54%	25.52%	8.02%
Asian	1.61%	1.34%	0.28%
American Indian	0.26%	0.25%	0.01%
Multiracial	3.78%	1.13%	2.65%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	

From 1999-2000 to 2008-09, the racial/ethnic composition of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch shows significant proportional changes. The Hispanic representation increased 8.02 percent, as compared to the white and black representations, which decreased by 4.94 percent and 6.02 percent, respectively.

**Figure 3: Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch by Race, 2008-09**



**Figure 4: Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch by Race, 1999-2000**



Additional district-level data are shown in Table 3 on the following page.

**Table 3: Number and Percentage of Florida PK-12 Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch**

DISTRICT	2008-09			1999-2000			PERCENT CHANGE
	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL ELIGIBLE	PERCENT ELIGIBLE	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL ELIGIBLE	PERCENT ELIGIBLE	
1 ALACHUA	27,665	12,791	46.24%	29,905	13,404	44.82%	1.42%
2 BAKER	5,065	2,322	45.84%	4,598	1,791	38.95%	6.89%
3 BAY	25,958	12,360	47.62%	25,812	11,405	44.18%	3.44%
4 BRADFORD	3,403	1,896	55.72%	4,103	1,860	45.33%	10.39%
5 BREVARD	73,098	25,150	34.41%	69,788	19,849	28.44%	5.97%
6 BROWARD	256,355	122,597	47.82%	241,128	87,716	36.38%	11.44%
7 CALHOUN	2,246	1,237	55.08%	2,213	1,078	48.71%	6.37%
8 CHARLOTTE	17,370	8,765	50.46%	16,753	6,955	41.51%	8.95%
9 CITRUS	16,032	7,525	46.94%	14,899	6,167	41.39%	5.55%
10 CLAY	35,997	10,617	29.49%	27,607	6,255	22.66%	6.83%
11 COLLIER	42,534	21,654	50.91%	32,302	13,619	42.16%	8.75%
12 COLUMBIA	10,058	5,786	57.53%	9,444	4,876	51.63%	5.90%
13 DADE	345,525	219,118	63.42%	360,114	214,570	59.58%	3.84%
14 DESOTO	4,952	3,349	67.63%	4,666	2,779	59.56%	8.07%
15 DIXIE	2,119	1,474	69.56%	2,319	1,391	59.98%	9.58%
16 DUVAL	122,610	56,064	45.73%	126,353	58,413	46.23%	-0.50%
17 ESCAMBIA	40,924	24,046	58.76%	45,296	25,082	55.37%	3.39%
18 FLAGLER	12,890	6,167	47.84%	6,287	2,522	40.11%	7.73%
19 FRANKLIN	1,281	888	69.32%	1,512	939	62.10%	7.22%
20 GADSDEN	6,417	5,729	89.28%	8,020	6,601	82.31%	6.97%
21 GILCHRIST	2,750	1,465	53.27%	2,734	1,479	54.10%	-0.83%
22 GLADES	1,388	690	49.71%	1,172	745	63.57%	-13.86%
23 GULF	2,050	934	45.56%	2,322	1,233	53.10%	-7.54%
24 HAMILTON	1,953	1,286	65.85%	2,227	1,455	65.33%	0.52%
25 HARDEE	5,108	3,543	69.36%	5,040	3,317	65.81%	3.55%
26 HENDRY	7,038	4,937	70.15%	7,539	4,739	62.86%	7.29%
27 HERNANDO	22,739	11,508	50.61%	16,824	6,867	40.82%	9.79%
28 HIGHLANDS	12,280	7,784	63.39%	11,007	6,392	58.07%	5.32%
29 HILLSBOROUGH	191,975	98,943	51.54%	159,358	74,371	46.67%	4.87%
30 HOLMES	3,399	2,022	59.49%	3,650	2,033	55.70%	3.79%
31 INDIAN RIVER	17,606	8,048	45.71%	14,768	5,950	40.29%	5.42%
32 JACKSON	7,319	4,102	56.05%	7,580	4,079	53.81%	2.24%
33 JEFFERSON	1,106	832	75.23%	1,938	1,346	69.45%	5.78%
34 LAFAYETTE	1,119	596	53.26%	1,084	572	52.77%	0.49%
35 LAKE	41,010	18,367	44.79%	28,545	11,303	39.60%	5.19%
36 LEE	79,434	41,464	52.20%	56,339	23,860	42.35%	9.85%
37 LEON	32,521	12,859	39.54%	31,539	9,775	30.99%	8.55%
38 LEVY	6,024	3,799	63.06%	6,283	3,292	52.40%	10.66%
39 LIBERTY	1,484	788	53.10%	1,210	565	46.69%	6.41%
40 MADISON	2,715	2,049	75.47%	3,507	2,117	60.36%	15.11%
41 MANATEE	42,583	19,918	46.77%	35,448	14,310	40.37%	6.40%
42 MARION	42,618	23,383	54.87%	38,469	17,793	46.25%	8.62%
43 MARTIN	18,067	6,030	33.38%	16,236	5,016	30.89%	2.49%
44 MONROE	8,278	2,968	35.85%	9,385	3,101	33.04%	2.81%
45 NASSAU	10,982	3,953	36.00%	10,216	3,082	30.17%	5.83%
46 OKALOOSA	29,126	9,349	32.10%	30,248	8,415	27.82%	4.28%
47 OKEECHOBEE	7,004	4,235	60.47%	6,758	3,333	49.32%	11.15%
48 ORANGE	172,276	83,640	48.55%	144,308	67,854	47.02%	1.53%
49 OSCEOLA	51,937	33,815	65.11%	31,877	14,137	44.35%	20.76%
50 PALM BEACH	170,756	75,360	44.13%	149,889	59,264	39.54%	4.59%
51 PASCO	66,784	30,720	46.00%	47,693	20,364	42.70%	3.30%
52 PINELLAS	106,066	46,102	43.47%	111,822	38,574	34.50%	8.97%
53 POLK	94,725	54,665	57.71%	78,816	39,360	49.94%	7.77%
54 PUTNAM	11,493	8,033	69.89%	12,647	7,539	59.61%	10.28%
55 ST. JOHNS	29,024	5,491	18.92%	19,046	4,317	22.67%	-3.75%
56 ST. LUCIE	38,839	22,413	57.71%	29,361	15,301	52.11%	5.60%
57 SANTA ROSA	25,397	8,896	35.03%	22,226	6,811	30.64%	4.39%
58 SARASOTA	41,070	16,784	40.87%	34,686	12,022	34.66%	6.21%
59 SEMINOLE	64,928	22,350	34.42%	59,571	15,303	25.69%	8.73%
60 SUMTER	7,650	4,159	54.37%	5,868	3,557	60.62%	-6.25%
61 SUWANNEE	5,978	3,607	60.34%	5,838	2,695	46.16%	14.18%
62 TAYLOR	3,299	2,039	61.81%	3,805	1,719	45.18%	16.63%
63 UNION	2,315	1,238	53.48%	2,335	990	42.40%	11.08%
64 VOLUSIA	63,166	29,463	46.64%	60,665	22,148	36.51%	10.13%
65 WAKULLA	5,264	2,169	41.20%	4,620	1,497	32.40%	8.80%
66 WALTON	7,000	3,468	49.54%	5,915	3,041	51.41%	-1.87%
67 WASHINGTON	3,534	2,061	58.32%	3,363	1,763	52.42%	5.90%
<b>SUBTOTAL (1-67)</b>	<b>2,623,676</b>	<b>1,301,860</b>	<b>49.62%</b>	<b>2,378,896</b>	<b>1,046,068</b>	<b>43.97%</b>	<b>5.65%</b>
<b>FLORIDA*</b>	<b>2,631,629</b>	<b>1,304,861</b>	<b>49.58%</b>	<b>2,383,219</b>	<b>1,047,647</b>	<b>43.96%</b>	<b>5.62%</b>

\*State totals include the special districts: Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, Dozier/Okeechobee, Florida Atlantic University Lab School, Florida State University Charter Schools, Florida A & M University Lab School, University of Florida Lab School, Florida Connections Academy, and Florida Virtual Academy.

Source: Florida Department of Education, Student Demographic Information records compiled during fall reporting surveys for years shown. Statistics for 2008-09 are current as of 4/22/09.

**Table 4: Number and Percentage of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch, by State (2006-07)**

STATE OR JURISDICTION	NUMBER	PERCENT
ALABAMA	379,537	51.04%
ALASKA	45,028	33.96%
ARIZONA	434,432	40.79%
ARKANSAS	279,400	58.65%
CALIFORNIA	3,119,136	48.68%
COLORADO	269,926	33.99%
CONNECTICUT	156,735	27.25%
DELAWARE	45,163	36.94%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	38,425	52.75%
FLORIDA	1,207,511	45.20%
GEORGIA	819,824	50.32%
HAWAII	73,650	40.75%
IDAHO	99,639	37.26%
ILLINOIS	794,322	37.50%
INDIANA	392,272	37.50%
IOWA	155,065	32.10%
KANSAS	182,860	38.95%
KENTUCKY	331,361	48.50%
LOUISIANA	416,402	61.61%
MAINE	67,289	34.69%
MARYLAND	274,539	32.24%
MASSACHUSETTS	280,165	28.92%
MICHIGAN	619,879	36.15%
MINNESOTA	259,532	30.88%
MISSISSIPPI	334,359	67.54%
MISSOURI	359,193	39.03%
MONTANA	50,656	35.08%
NEBRASKA	104,783	36.44%
NEVADA		
NEW HAMPSHIRE	35,945	17.66%
NEW JERSEY	378,927	27.28%
NEW MEXICO	198,304	60.42%
NEW YORK	1,229,063	43.74%
NORTH CAROLINA	624,349	43.22%
NORTH DAKOTA	29,246	30.25%
OHIO	619,247	33.73%
OKLAHOMA	352,841	55.18%
OREGON	232,435	41.32%
PENNSYLVANIA	556,645	29.75%
RHODE ISLAND	49,558	32.69%
SOUTH CAROLINA	360,907	51.33%
SOUTH DAKOTA	34,996	28.88%
TENNESSEE	466,781	47.71%
TEXAS	2,172,930	47.24%
UTAH	160,559	30.67%
VERMONT	24,467	25.65%
VIRGINIA	383,298	31.41%
WASHINGTON	375,159	36.54%
WEST VIRGINIA	139,804	49.59%
WISCONSIN	271,422	30.96%
WYOMING	25,284	29.68%
<b>REPORTING STATES</b>	<b>20,313,250</b>	<b>41.20%</b>

Source: NCES, Common Core of Data. <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/>.