

Wake County Public School System Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program, 2011-12

Overview

The 2011-12 school year figures¹ show that 48,881 WCPSS students applied and qualified for **FRPL** (Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program) – an increase of 2,425 students, or 0.9 percent, since last year. The majority of the students are elementary school students. FRPL students now account for 33.3 percent of Wake's 146,689 students, up from the 32.4 percent figure of last year. Overall, there are 65 schools with an FRPL above 40.0%, an increase of 5 schools since last year. The FRPL ranges from a low of 4.7% to a high of 80.2%.

1. Comparison of FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAMS, 2011-12 and 2010-11:

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM, 2011-12						
LEVEL		Membership	NO FRPL	%NO FRPL	FRPL	%FRPL
E	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	70,526	45,439	64.4%	25,087	35.6%
M	MIDDLE SCHOOLS	33,604	22,047	65.6%	11,557	34.4%
S	HIGH SCHOOLS	42,143	30,219	71.7%	11,924	28.3%
S/O	SPECIAL/OPTIONAL SCHOOLS	414	101	24.4%	313	75.6%
TOTAL		146,687	97,806	66.7%	48,881	33.3%
FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM, 2010-11						
LEVEL		Membership	NO FRPL	%NO FRPL	FRPL	%FRPL
E	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	69,099	44,953	65.1%	24,146	34.9%
M	MIDDLE SCHOOLS	32,609	21,642	66.4%	10,967	33.6%
S	HIGH SCHOOLS	41,170	30,138	73.2%	11,032	26.8%
S/O	SPECIAL/OPTIONAL SCHOOLS	411	100	24.3%	311	75.7%
TOTAL		143,289	96,833	67.6%	46,456	32.4%

2. Elementary Schools

In WCPSS, the elementary schools FRPL ranges from a low of 5.1% to a high of 80.2%. There are 41 elementary schools with an FRPL above 40.0%. There are 6 elementary schools with an FRPL below 10.0%.

¹ 20-day 2011-12

There were 5 elementary schools with increase or decrease of FRPL above 10%. A fluctuation in FRPL percentages by school can have many causes. The primary is a change in the number (increase or decrease) and socioeconomic make-up of the membership. That change can happen due to economy, housing market, Wake County immigration and emigration rate, students leaving and entering the system – e.g., for the first time (KI, and 1-12 grades), changing demographics, other schooling options (home, private, charter), natural growth trends (fertility – mortality), reassignment or transfer options, etc.

3. Historic Trends

The fraction of WCPSS FRPL students has been increasing steadily over the past 10 years. In the 2000-01 school year, FRPL students accounted for 20.27% of the enrolment. Currently, that number is 33.30% - over 13% more.

Percent and Total of WCPSS Students Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, 2000 - 2011:

School Year	Percent FRPL	Total FRPL
2000-2001	20.27%	19,774
2001-2002	21.40%	21,751
2002-2003	21.90%	22,945
2003-2004	24.30%	26,492
2004-2005	26.40%	30,312
2005-2006	27.10%	32,998
2006-2007	28.20%	36,175
2007-2008	28.00%	37,567
2008-2009	28.40%	39,060
2009-2010	31.20%	43,739
2010-2011	32.40%	46,456
2011-2012	33.30%	48,881

4. About the Program

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the National School Lunch Program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130% of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. For the latter, students cannot be charged more than 40 cents. For example, for the period July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012, 130% of the poverty level is \$29,055 for a family of four; 185% is \$41,348.) (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/>).