

# Paperless Access to Free School Meals

## Update on the Medi-Cal Demo



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**History:** For over a decade California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) has been working toward a vision of paperless school meal enrollment for low-income children. [link](#)

**The Opportunity:** CFPA advocated for a demonstration project to occur in California to certify low-income students in Medi-Cal households for free meals without the need for a paper application. Thanks to this advocacy and the leadership of the California Department of Education (CDE), California was one of seven states selected. California was given limited authority to include school districts with free and reduced price (FRP) meal enrollment up to a collective 225,000 students in a Medi-Cal match in the 2014-2015 school year. Initially, the match will occur at the county level. In the coming year, state Medi-Cal data will be used. [link](#)

To seize this opportunity, the CDE and CFPA have been working together over the last year to educate, recruit, and assist school districts and local Medi-Cal agencies in participating in the demonstration.

**The Update:** Fourteen school districts have been approved and will begin matching students by the upcoming school year.<sup>1</sup> The number of FRP eligible students in districts served by this demo is over 240,000. We expect participation in free school meals to increase in approved districts by considerably more than the six percent seen in other demonstration projects.

Participating School District	Number of FRP Eligible Students Served
San Diego Unified School District ( <a href="#">San Diego</a> )	69,478
Santa Ana Unified School District ( <a href="#">Orange</a> )	48,941
San Francisco Unified School District ( <a href="#">San Francisco</a> )	36,321
Oakland Unified School District ( <a href="#">Alameda</a> )	24,695
Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District ( <a href="#">Solano</a> )	12,632
Vallejo Unified School District ( <a href="#">Solano</a> )	10,206
Cajon Valley Unified School District ( <a href="#">San Diego</a> )	10,091
Woodland Unified School District ( <a href="#">Yolo</a> )	6,769
New Haven Unified School District ( <a href="#">Alameda</a> )	5,981
Vacaville Unified School District ( <a href="#">Solano</a> )	5,134
South Bay Union School District ( <a href="#">San Diego</a> )	5,059
Washington Unified School District ( <a href="#">Yolo</a> )	4,939
Red Bluff JUHSD ( <a href="#">Tehama</a> )	864
Lassen View Elementary School District ( <a href="#">Shasta</a> )	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,266</b>

<sup>1</sup> As of July 2015, California's Direct Certification with Medi-Cal demonstration project is closed to additional school districts.