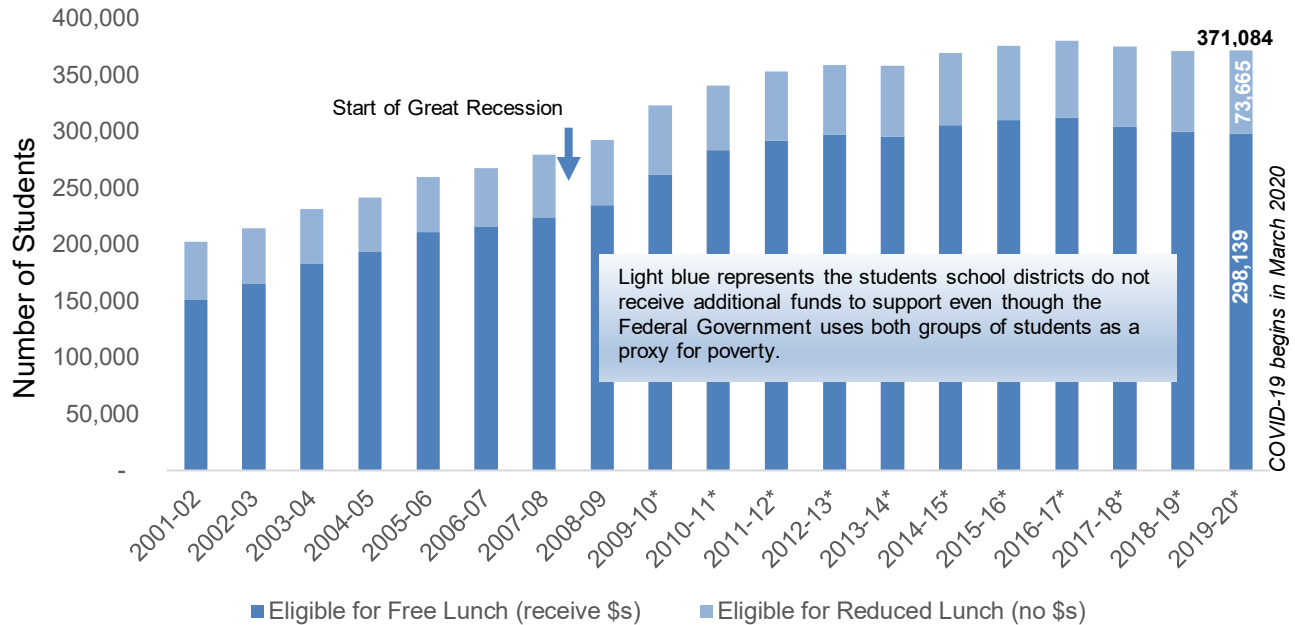


Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible Students: A Look at Student Count

PK-12 Students in Colorado Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch: 2002 to 2020



Data: Colorado Department of Education

*Budget Stabilization Factor

In 2019-20 over 371,000 (41%) of Colorado’s PK-12 students qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch. However, Colorado’s School Finance Act does not include funding for students who qualify for Reduced Lunch. This means that school districts received funds for a little more than 298,000 (33%). It is interesting to note that in 2009-10, the year following the start of the Great Depression, there was an increase of more than 30,000 students, or more than 10 percent, who qualified for free or reduced lunch in Colorado. The Federal Government establishes income criteria for the lunch program. It is a proxy for poverty.