

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**October 2015****EXPLANATION OF COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY****STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

Section 163.031(6), RSMo

Consent
ItemAction
ItemReport
Item**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 4:**

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will improve departmental efficiency and operational effectiveness.

SUMMARY:

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides the option to offer free meals to all students in eligible high poverty Local Education Agencies (LEA). Verification of eligibility for free meals is obtained through direct certification rather than paper application. Department staff will provide an explanation of the Community Eligibility Provision.

PRESENTERS:

Ron Lankford, Deputy Commissioner, and Karen Wooton, Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Services, Division of Financial and Administrative Services, will assist with the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.



THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

Presented to

Missouri State Board of Education

Ron Lankford and Karen Wooton

October 27, 2015

Missouri Department
of Elementary and Secondary Education

Background

- The intent of CEP, authorized in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, is to:
 - Improve access to free school meals in eligible high poverty LEAs and individual schools
 - Eliminate administrative burden of collecting household applications
 - Reduce chance of overt identification and stigma



Implementation Phase

- CEP was phased-in over a period of three years in a limited number of states
- **July 1, 2014**, all states were required to make it available to all eligible LEAs



Requirements for Participation

- At least **40%** of enrolled students have been identified through **Direct Certification** in the school year prior to implementing CEP
- **Must** serve lunches ***and*** breakfasts to **all** students at no cost
- Household applications for free and reduced price meals **are not** collected



Election Options

- LEAs may elect the Provision for:
 - all schools in the LEA
 - a group of schools
 - an individual school

- LEAs are required to submit an application by June 30 to the State agency to begin CEP in the next school year (unless extended by USDA)



State Approval Process

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- The State agency must ensure that the LEAs/schools:
 - Meets the Direct Certification rate of 40% or greater
 - Participates in both the national school lunch *and* breakfast programs
 - Administers the meal program in accordance with program regulations



Reimbursement Process

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- CEP percentage multiplied by **1.6** equals the percent of total meals served that will be reimbursed at the Federal free rate
- The remaining percentage of total meals served is reimbursed at the rate for full pay students
- Any meal costs in excess of the total Federal reimbursement must be covered **through non-Federal sources**



Reimbursement Rates

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- Full Pay Student Reimbursement

- Breakfast \$0.29
 - Lunch \$0.35 - \$0.37

- Reduced Price Reimbursement

- Breakfast \$1.36 - \$1.69
 - Lunch \$2.73 - \$2.75

- Free Meal Reimbursement

- Breakfast \$1.66 - \$1.99
 - Lunch \$3.13 - \$3.15



Calculation (If Identified CEP Percentage = 50%)

50%	Free Meal Payment Amt. \$3.15
<u>x 1.6</u>	x 800
80% CEP	Sub-Total <u>\$2,520</u> +
Meals Served 1,000	Full Pay Amount \$0.37
x <u>80%</u>	x 200
Total (CEP) 800	Sub-Total <u>\$74.00</u>
	Max. Reimbursement \$2,594



Participating LEAs/Schools

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- Number of LEAs Districtwide
 - 2014-15 = 64 2015-16 = 68
- Number of LEAs - Not Districtwide
 - 2014-15 = 11 2015-16 = 15
- Total Number of Buildings
 - 2014-15 = 298 2015-16 = 332
- Total Number of Students Served
 - 2014-15 = 106,126 2015-16 = 111,416



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