

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION



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Intent of CEP

- To improve access to free school meals in eligible high poverty LEAs and schools
- To eliminate administrative burden of collecting household applications



Benefits of Implementing CEP

- Serve free lunches and breakfasts to all students
- Reduce paperwork for households and school food service because no household applications are collected and processed
- No Verification of applications
- Reduced chance of overt identification



Eligibility Criteria

- Available nationwide July 1, 2014
 - LEAs required to submit by June 30 (normal year)
 - **Extension: August 31, 2014**
- Meal costs in excess of the total Federal reimbursement must be covered by non-Federal sources
- Residential Child Care Institutions may not participate



Requirements for Participation

- Have a minimum percentage of 40% of identified students in the school year prior to implementing CEP (As of April 1)
- Serve free lunches **and** breakfasts to all students for a cycle of 4 years
 - LEAs are required to stay in the program for the ENTIRE program year (school year)
- Household applications for free and reduced price meals may not be collected



Definition: Identified Student

- Students certified for free meals without an application (not subject to verification)
- Includes students directly certified through SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, and homeless on the liaison list, income-eligible Head Start, pre-K Even Start, migrant, runaways, non-applicants approved by local officials, and foster children certified through means other than an application
- The term does not include students who are categorically eligible based on submission of a Free & Reduced Application



Identified Student Percentage

$$\frac{\text{\# of Identified Students}}{\text{Total \# of enrolled students with access to NSLP/SBP}} \times 100 = \text{Identified Student \%}$$

Enrolled Students: Students attending the CEP school who have access to at least one meal service (breakfast or lunch) daily



CEP Claiming Percentages

- Identified student percentage is multiplied by a factor of 1.6 to determine the % of meals reimbursed in the free category
- The remaining percent of total meals is reimbursed at the paid rate
- Any remaining meal costs in excess of the total Federal reimbursement must be covered with non-federal sources



CEP Multiplier

- The function of the 1.6 multiplier is to provide an estimate of the total number of students eligible for free and reduced price meals in participating Community Eligible schools, groups of schools or LEAs that is comparable to the poverty % that would be obtained in a non-CEP school.
- FNS is permitted to change the multiplier to a number between 1.3 and 1.6



CEP Example

- 50 identified students ÷ 100 enrolled students = 50% (identified student percentage)
- 50% x 1.6 = 80% (free claiming percentage)
- 100% - 80% = 20% (paid claiming percentage)

If served 1500 meals in one month
1500 x 80% = 1200 free meals
1500 x 20% = 300 paid meals



One more example

- 580 identified students ÷ 1000 enrolled students = 58% (identified student percentage)
- 58% x 1.6 = 92.8% (free claiming percentage)
- 100% - 92.8% = 7.2% (paid claiming percentage)

If served 1500 meals in one month
1500 x 92.8% = 1392 free meals
1500 x 7.2% = 108 paid meals



One Question Test

What is the identified student percentage that results in claiming all meals at the free rate?



Answer

62.5%

$$(62.5 \times 1.6 = 100\%)$$



Identified Student Determinations

- By individual schools
- A group of schools
- Entire LEA



- Eligible school or group of schools must have a combined identified student percentage of at least 40 percent



NOTE

- An LEA may participate in the CEP for all schools in the LEA or only some schools, depending on the eligibility of individual schools and financial considerations based on the anticipated level of Federal reimbursement and other non-Federal support that may be available to cover any meal costs in excess of the Federal reimbursement
- Any schools at LEA not participating in CEP must follow normal counting and claiming procedures - F/R apps, verification, etc.



Preliminary LEA-Wide Data

- From Verification Report -(Identified students)
 - 3-2 Students directly certified through SNAP
 - Also include extended categorical eligibility students
 - 3-3 Students directly certified through other programs
 - TANF, FDIPIR (also extended categorical eligible students), those documented as homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, Head Start, Pre-K Evan Start, or non-applicant approved by LEA.

(As of the last operating day in October)



2-3 Operating the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP):	0	0
2-4 Operating other alternatives for NSLP and SBP:	0	0
2-5 Operating an alternate provision(s) for only SBP or only NSLP:	0	0

Section 3 - Students approved as FREE eligible NOT subject to verification

All SFA's must report Section 3 or check box 3-1 if applicable. Report students approved FREE eligible as of the last operating day in October.

3-1 Check the box only if all schools and/or RCCIs in the SFA were not required to perform direct certification with SNAP (i.e. NON BASE year Provision 2/3 for all schools)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		B. Number of FREE Students
3-2 Students directly certified through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Do not include students certified with SNAP through the letter method.		85
3-3 Students directly certified through other programs: Include those directly certified through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Medicaid (if applicable); those documented as homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, Head Start, Pre-K Even Start, or non-applicant but approved by local officials. DO NOT include SNAP students already reported in 3-2.		2
3-4 Students certified categorically FREE eligible through SNAP letter method. Include students certified for free meals through the family providing a letter from the SNAP agency.		0

Section 4 - Students approved as FREE or REDUCED PRICE eligible through a household application

All SFA collecting applications must report Section 4. Report number of applications (A) approved as of October 1st. Report number of students (B) as of the last operating day in October.

	A. Number of Applications	B. Number of Students
4-1 Approved as categorically FREE Eligible. Based on those providing documentation (e.g. a case number for SNAP, TANF, FDIPIR on an application)	6	8
4-2 Approved as FREE eligible. Based on household size and income information.	31	69
4-3 Approved as REDUCED PRICE eligible. Based on household size and income information.	22	38

Annual Notification Timeline

- April 15th - Obtain school level information
 - Eligible - 40% and above
 - Potentially eligible - greater than 30% but less than 40%
- May 1st - Publish list of LEAs and schools on DESE, FNS website
- May 1st - Provide list of LEAs and schools to USDA, FNS for publication on their website



Applications | Home | Compliance | Search | Security | Tools | Year | Help | Log Out

Applications > CEP Year 2013 > CEP Site Eligibility * School Year: 2013 - 2014

LEA: MOSEY | DELETE | INTERNAL USE ONLY

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) - Building Eligibility For School Year: 2013 - 2014

000-000
ABC School District
School Address

General Information

Reporting Date: April 01, 2014
Due Date: May 15, 2014

Instructions

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides an alternative to household applications for free and reduced price meals for economically disadvantaged students in local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools. Buildings that elect this option agree to serve all students free lunches and breakfasts for four (4) successive school years and claim the meals based on a percentage of Identified Students multiplied by a 100% defined multiplier factor.

Buildings which have an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of 40% or greater are eligible for this option. Buildings which have an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) between 20.00% - 39.99% are potentially eligible.

Enter each Building's Number of Identified Students and Enrollment as of the Reporting Date.

Build Number	Building Name	Nbr of Identified Students	Enrollment	ISP	Eligible?	Potentially Eligible?
4020	Elementary School	0	0	0.00 %		
3000	Middle School	0	0	0.00 %		
1000	High School	0	0	0.00 %		
LEA Totals		0	0	0.00 %		
Total Sites: 3						

Export Export All



Deadline

- Must decide by June 30, 2014
 - ?? Possible Extension??
- Complete the required information on Web Application Packet
 - Instructions can be found on website under Community Eligibility Provision



Annual Percentage Selection

- During the 2nd, 3rd and 4th years, the LEA/school may select the higher of:
 - ✓ Identified student percentage from the immediately preceding school year; or
 - ✓ The year prior to the first year of participating in CEP (your original ISP)
- In Missouri, LEAs electing the CEP will still be required to conduct Direct Certification. (will provide further guidance on this)



New Cycle

- To begin a new 4 year cycle, must establish a new Identified Student Percentage as of April 1 of the fourth year
- If in year 4, the Identified Student Percentage is less than 40%, but more than 30%, may elect for an additional grace year.
 - LEAs/schools that do not meet the threshold must return to normal counting and claiming procedures the following School Year



School Nutrition Program General Information	
G1. Number of Children Approved for Free Meals:	0 74.580000 %
G2. Number of Children Approved for Reduced Price Meals:	0 0.000000 %
G3. Number of Enrolled Children:	0
National School Lunch Program	
L1. Authorized Sites Participating:	0
L2. Total Monthly Attendance:	0
L3. Number Operating Days:	0
L4. Reimbursable Lunches Served	CEO %
a. Free Lunches Served:	0 74.580000 %
b. Reduced Price Lunches Served:	0 0.000000 %
c. Paid Lunches Served:	0 25.420000 %
d. Total Lunches Served (a + b + c):	0 100.000000 %
School Breakfast Program (Severe Need Reimbursement)	
N1. Authorized Sites Participating:	0
N2. Total Monthly Attendance:	0
N3. Number Operating Days:	0
N4. Reimbursable Breakfasts Served	CEO %
a. Free Breakfasts Served:	0 74.580000 %
b. Reduced Price Breakfasts Served:	0 0.000000 %
c. Paid Breakfasts Served:	0 25.420000 %
d. Total Breakfasts Served (a + b + c):	0 100.000000 %

Benefits of Implementing CEP

- Serve free lunches and breakfasts to all students
- Reduced paper work for households and school food service because no household applications are collected and processed
- No Verification of applications
- Reduced chance of overt identification and stigma



Concerns of CEP

- Other uses of free claiming percentage
 - LEAs under CEP are not permitted to collect applications for free and reduced price school meals.
 - Any LEA seeking to obtain socio-economic data from students would be required to develop, conduct and fund this effort totally separate from the NSLP and SBP
- Counting Procedures
 - Tally vs. roster/computerized system (we don't know)



Eligibility Data

- For Title I and other programs such as Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program, Child & Adult Care Feeding Program, Seamless Summer Option and After School Care Program – school eligibility will be determined by the school's free claiming % (ISP x 1.6)
- No household applications would be required



School/LEA Considerations

- Plan for issues surrounding the absence of eligibility data
- Implement the provision in a way that results in full student participation (i.e. advertising free meals, more participation = more \$)
- Participation by individual schools, groups of schools or the entire LEA
- Anticipated level of Federal reimbursement and resources to support program costs that exceed reimbursement



CEP Web Page

- Annual Notification List**
 - LEA - Schools
- Overview**
 - CEP Application Process (Web Instructions)
 - Community Eligibility Provision: Guidance and Q&As - USDA Memo SP 21-2014
 - Joint CEP Letter
 - CEP Presentation
 - Supporting and Promoting the Community Eligibility Provision Brochure
 - CEP Notification and Data Requirements
 - CEP Evaluation
- Proposed Rule**
 - Proposed Rule: Community Eligibility Provision
- Resources**
 - Traditional vs CEP Comparison
This is a tool to assist in determining if CEP is beneficial for you based on monthly reimbursement.
 - CEP Federal Reimbursement Estimator
This is a tool to assist in determining whether the CEP is right for you based on your monthly reimbursement.
 - Eligible and Potentially Eligible LEAs for CEP
- Title I**
 - Community Eligibility Provision: Department of Education Title I Guidance - USDA Memo SP 19-2014



Contact Us

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