



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

March 2015

Missouri Department
of Elementary and Secondary Education

Agenda

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- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- Smart Snacks



Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

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- Available nationwide July 1, 2014
- Offer free lunches and breakfasts to all enrolled students for a cycle of 4 years
- No collection of free and reduced price application
- Meal costs in excess of the total Federal reimbursement must be covered by non-Federal sources



CEP – eligibility criteria

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- Must have an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of at least 40% as of April 1st of the school year prior to implementation
- $ISP = (\text{Identified students} \div \text{enrollment})$



Definition: Identified Students

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- Students certified for free meals without an application
- 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



CEP Claiming Percentages

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- 50 identified students \div 100 enrolled students
= 50% (ISP)
- 50% \times 1.6 = 80% (free claiming percentage)
- 100% - 80% = 20% (paid claiming percentage)

If served 1500 meals in one month

1500 \times 80% = 1200 free meals

1500 \times 20% = 300 paid meals



The Multiplier (1.6)

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- Intended to provide an estimate of the total number of students eligible for free and reduced meals in an eligible school
- USDA is permitted to change the multiplier to a number between 1.3 and 1.6
- Schools may keep the same multiplier for the entire 4 year cycle



100% Free claiming

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

62.5%

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



Identified Student Determinations

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



CEP in Missouri

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- 75 LEAs (298 buildings)
 - 50 public school districts
 - 21 charter schools
 - 4 non-public schools

(64 district-wide)



Preliminary Identified Student Data

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- Verification Report
 - Students directly certified through SNAP
 - Also include extended categorical eligibility students
 - Students directly certified through other programs
 - TANF, FDPIR (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)



Notification Timeline

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- 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 and USDA, FNS website



Deadline

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- Must decide by June 30th (was extended to August 31st for the 2014-15 SY)
- Complete the required information on Web Application
- Intent to participate form provided for signature



Updating the Claiming Percentage

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- A new identified student percentage may be established each year (do not need to use unless higher than previously established %)
- If updated, would need to proceed with the direct certification process to provide a new number as of April 1, 2015



Resources on Website

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- Media Release
- Sample Letter to Households for CEP
- Traditional vs. CEP Comparison
- CEP Federal Reimbursement Estimator
- CEP Participants – Daily Meal Count Form



Benefits of Implementing CEP

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- 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



CEP Resources on Website

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- CEP participation list
- Process for completing the web application
- USDA memos
- Sample media release
- Sample letter to households
- Traditional vs. CEP comparison tool
- CEP Federal reimbursement estimator tool
- CEP – daily meal count form



Smart Snacks

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- USDA established nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day.
- School day: From midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day



Fundraisers

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- All foods that meet the regulatory standards may be sold as fundraisers on the school campus during the school day
- The standards do not apply to items sold during non-school hours, weekends, or off-campus



Fundraiser Exemptions for Missouri

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- A maximum of 5 fundraisers that do not meet the regulatory standards, per school building, per school year, with a duration of one day are allowed
- Exempt fundraisers may not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service



Recordkeeping

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- Food Service must maintain records for all Smart Snack products sold under the nonprofit school food service account
- School Districts must maintain records for all other Smart Snack products sold



Monitoring and Compliance

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- Monitoring for compliance is part of the on-site Administrative Review
- If violations have occurred, technical assistance and corrective action plans will be required



Smart Snack Resources on Website

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- Smart Snacks Tracking Sheet
- Exempt Fundraiser Tracking Sheet
- Smart Snacks Product Calculator
- Smart Snacks Product Navigator
- USDA guidance memos and Q&A's
- Smart Snacks Webinar



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