



ELECTION AND DEADLINE

- Local Education Agencies (LEA) may elect CEP for all schools, a group of schools or individual schools.
- LEAs in CEP are required to inform students and parents if offering meals at no charge.
- Meals at no charge will be offered to all enrolled students.
- LEAs are required to submit documentation to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) no later than June 30 to begin CEP for the school year beginning July 1.
- LEAs may elect to withdraw from CEP at any time and districts must notify TDA of their intent to withdraw.

CEP CLAIMING PROCESS

The identified student percentage multiplied by a factor of 1.6 equals the percentage of total meals served reimbursed at the federal free rate.

The remaining percentage of total meals is reimbursed at the federal paid rate.

Any meal costs in excess of the total federal reimbursement must be covered through non-federal sources, such as general revenue, private donations or grants (non-federal).



COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

A NEW FEDERAL NON-PRICING PROVISION

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 provides an alternative to household applications for free and reduced price meals and provides another non-pricing meal program alternative like Provision 2 and Universal Feeding that offers all students free meals in high poverty Local Education Agencies (LEA) and schools.

The provision is available nationwide beginning July 1, 2014.



TO LEARN MORE

Visit www.SquareMeals.org

Call TDA at (877) TEX-MEAL

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Texas Department of Agriculture
1700 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP) DEFINITIONS

IDENTIFIED STUDENTS

Students certified for free meals through means other than individual household applications in the school year prior to implementing the provision. This includes both students who are directly certified and categorically eligible.

ENROLLED STUDENTS

Students who are enrolled and attending schools that participate in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program.

IDENTIFIED STUDENT PERCENTAGE

The percentage determined by dividing the number of “identified students” at a specified time period by the number of “enrolled students” during the same time period and multiplying by 100.

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

- Participating schools must implement for both lunch and breakfast.
- Schools must count total lunches and total breakfasts served to students daily.
- No cost meals must be offered to all enrolled students.



IDENTIFIED STUDENTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start, Early Head Start, Even Head Start or a comparable state-funded pre-kindergarten program
- Foster Care
- Homeless Program, including runaways and individuals displaced by declared disasters
- Migrant Program



SCHOOL MEALS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

CEP schools must have a minimum of 40 percent of identified students certified for free school meals without an application due to the students’ enrollment in a designated assistance program. The provision allows schools to provide enrolled students meals at no cost as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program.

Instead of applications, schools use claiming percentages based on the number of identified students certified for no cost meals. Identified students are primarily certified for free meals through direct certification. Local Education Agencies (LEA) and/or schools must have an identified eligible student percentage rate of at least 40 percent as of April 1 of the prior school year to qualify.