

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

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, as of April 1.

ENROLLED STUDENTS – Students who participate and are currently attending schools that participate in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs.

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.

IDENTIFIED STUDENTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

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

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

- Participating schools must implement CEP for both lunch and breakfast.
- Schools must count total lunches and total breakfasts served to students daily.
- At CEP schools all students must be offered no cost meals.
- Schools operating CEP must not distribute and collect household applications while operating CEP.



Food and Nutrition Division
National School Lunch Program



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This product was funded by USDA.



Updated 12/15/2020
www.SquareMeals.org



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Individual CEP schools, or group of CEP schools, must have a minimum of 25 percent of identified students certified for free school meals without an application based on 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 Programs.

Instead of applications, schools use eligibility determinations based on student or household participation in specific assistance programs.

CEP CLAIMING PROCESS

The identified student percentage multiplied by a factor of 1.6 equals the percentage of total meals served that will be 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).

ELECTION AND DEADLINE

- Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may elect CEP for all schools, a group of schools or individual schools.
- LEAs operating CEP are required to inform students and parents that meals are offered at no charge.
- 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.
- If a CE withdraws from CEP, the CE must return to the standard counting, claiming and eligibility determination process.

A FEDERAL NON-PRICING PROVISION

The Community Eligibility Provision provides students with meals at no cost without requiring Contracting Entities (CEs) to collect free and reduced price meal household applications.

