



Policy Updates

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

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Food and Nutrition Division
National School Lunch Program



Updated 9/28/2023
www.SquareMeals.org



Updated Reduced-Price Breakfast Guidance



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School Breakfast Changes 2023-24 and 2024-2025 School Years

Starting September 1st, 2023* –
The 88th Texas Legislature
allocated funding to cover the fee
of reduced-price breakfast through
the 2024-2025 school year.

* Reduced-price breakfasts served at no cost prior to September 1, 2023, will not be reimbursed by the state.

Reduced-Price Breakfast Guidance for Schools Operating Universal Breakfast

Universal Breakfast = all students served breakfast at no cost

- All UB schools, even those NOT mandated, will **automatically** receive \$0.30 per reduced price breakfast claimed.
- Must opt-out if you do not want State reimbursement
 - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=9e370e2880b84f998eed726cc8f2ecf2>
- Site application will show \$0.00 for both paid and reduced-price meals



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REMINDER!!!!

If charging for paid students for breakfast...

- Site application should reflect:
 - Paid breakfast – Actual cost being charged to students
 - Reduced-price breakfast – Amount of reimbursement expected from the state per reduced-price breakfast claimed.



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FAQs on Reduced-Price Breakfast guidance

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/School-Breakfast-Program/Reduced-Price-Breakfast-Now-Free>



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Unanticipated School Closure Guidance



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Three Options for Serving Students during an Unanticipated School Closure

Option 1 – SFSP or SSO

- Only available for USCs occurring between October and April.
- All area eligibility requirements are in effect for SY 2023-2024.
- Non-congregate service, parent pick-up, and meal service time flexibilities available.
- Service can be at the closed school site, if available.
- Flexibilities available up to a maximum of 10 days unless an approved extension is granted.



Three Options for Serving Students during an Unanticipated School Closure

Option 2 – CACFP At-Risk

- Anytime in the school year up until June 30.
- One meal and one snack.
- All area eligibility requirements are in effect for SY 2023-2024.
- Non-congregate service, parent pick-up, and meal service time flexibilities available.
- Enrichment is waived.
- Service can be at the closed school site, if available.
- Flexibilities available up to a maximum of 10 days unless an approved extension is granted.



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Three Options for Serving Students during an Unanticipated School Closure

Option 3 – NSLP/SBP

- Anytime in the school year up until June 30.
- Virtual instruction must be provided.
- Non-congregate service, parent pick-up, and meal service time flexibilities available.
- Service can be at the closed school site, if available.
- Flexibilities available up to a maximum of 10 days unless an approved extension is granted.



New Resources Coming Soon!

- Three new notification forms (one for each option)
- Updated FAQs
- Updated ARM





Final Rule Lowering CEP Threshold



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Proposed Rule to Lower CEP Threshold

What's included?

Lowers the ISP threshold for schools to participate in CEP from 40% to 25%.

- Identified Student Percentage (ISP) = % of students certified eligible for free meals without the household application.
- Participation threshold = minimum ISP required to operate CEP.
- CEP may be implemented at individual school(s), groups of schools, or district-wide if the combined ISP is at or above the participation threshold.
- All students eat for free under CEP.
- Percentage of meals reimbursed at the free rate = $(ISP \times 1.6)$
- Four-year cycle



Final Rule to Lower CEP Threshold

What's included?

- The “grace” year threshold is 15% and over.
- Goes into effect for SY 2024-2025 based on ISP data submitted in the Spring CEP report.



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Final Rule to Lower CEP Threshold

Considerations

- ISP multiplier of 1.6 is not changing.
 - Ex. A school with 25% ISP operating CEP will receive free reimbursement rate for 40% of the meals claimed (25% x 1.6). The remaining 60% will be reimbursed at the paid rate.
- Any CNP program costs not covered by reimbursement must be paid for with non-Federal funds.



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Verification Templates Suite



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Verification Letters Sample Templates Suite

- Consolidated document
 - Contains verification selection letters, information request forms, and results and adverse action letters
- Intuitively organized
 - TOC and new instructions
- Available in the following locations on SquareMeals:
 - NSLP Administration/Forms page
(<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Administration-Forms>)
 - Application Verification page
(<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Eligibility-and-Verification/Application-Verification>)

