

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is CEP?

Community Eligibility Provision gives school officials the option to provide free meals for every student in schools where at least 40 percent are directly certified students (they qualify for federal assistance). CEP is directed toward schools with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

What is a “directly certified “(DC) student?

Students may be directly certified when they receive certain federal benefits, including SNAP and KTAP. Some foster children and some children receiving Medicaid may also be directly certified. This information is provided by the state/local agency administering these programs. Students identified by the district as homeless, runaway, Head Start, or migrant are also considered directly certified.

What is an Educational Benefits Form (EBF)?

Households whose students attend only a CEP school and are not directly certified for free meal benefits will complete an EBF. This form is used to determine eligibility for other educational benefits generally available to free or reduced students. *Funding and benefit examples include SEEK, Title 1, Fee waivers, Family Resource & Youth Service Centers, KEES Scholarships, Special Education, E-Rate, magnet school transportation assistance, and much more.*

When do I complete the EBF?

The EBF should be submitted before Sept. 15. Any new enrollments after that date are asked to complete the form and return it with the additional enrollment paperwork.

Is the CEP program just for students? What about staff, visiting family, etc.?

Yes, only enrolled students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. Staff and family members visiting their students during breakfast and lunch must continue to pay for meals.

Are a la carte items also free?

Only one reimbursable school breakfast and lunch per student is free. Extra items and a la carte snacks will be sold at the published price.

For further assistance, please call (859) 381-3838.