



Community Eligibility- Who does it help?

1 in 5 children are in households that struggle to put food on the table. Community eligibility helps schools feed more hungry kids at no charge.

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

Presented by

Child & Adult Nutrition Services (CANS)

Cheriee Watterson, Assistant Program Administrator

Pam McCown, NSLP Program Specialist

2

August 2015

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION?

- It doesn't make sense for high-poverty schools to go through the standard application process to identify the few children who do not qualify for free or reduced-price school meals
- Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 included community eligibility as a new option to allow high-poverty schools to feed more students and focus on meal quality rather than on paperwork
- Community eligibility is designed to be extremely easy for a school or district to adopt and became available nationwide in the 2014-2015 school year

BENEFITS OF CEP: REDUCES ADMIN COSTS & PAPERWORK

- No printing and postage fees for free and reduced applications
- No Admin time spent determining free and reduced eligibility
- No Admin time spent tracking down applications for families that do not pay for their meals
- No Admin time spent on verification of applications

BENEFITS OF CEP: MORE CHILDREN RECEIVE NUTRITIOUS MEALS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- Many CEP schools have experienced increased school meals participation
- Removing the stigma associated with providing meals to all children

BENEFITS OF CEP: CREATIVE MEAL SERVICE MODELS ARE EASIER TO IMPLEMENT

- Many CEP schools try breakfast in the classroom or “grab and go” kiosks because meal counts are simple

BENEFITS OF CEP: ELIMINATES STUDENT MEAL CHARGES

- CEP allows for a simplified meal count and claim.
- Eliminates collecting meal payments for students
- No negative meal balances for reimbursable meals

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY

16 million children

live in households that struggle to put food on the table. Community eligibility ensures that all students have access to nutritious school meals at no charge.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG/CEP

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN CEP?

○ All Schools and agencies

- Except residential child care institutions

○ Offering both

School Breakfast Program

National School Lunch Program

○ To students at no charge

How Community Eligibility Provision Works

Serve
Break-
fast &
Lunch

≥40%
Direct
Cert
Student
's (ISP)

No
House-
hold
App's

Other
Source
of
Federal
Funds

No
Student
Meal
Charge

WHAT IS AN IDENTIFIED STUDENT?

Children certified for free meals without submitting a school meal application

Includes children who are directly certified (through data matching or direct certification) for free meals because they live in households that participate in the

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cash Assistance (TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or
(note this includes both those directly certified and others living in the household)

Includes children who are individually certified for free meals without application because they are

- in foster care (needs documentation from foster agency)
- in Head Start
- are homeless or
- are migrant
- are runaway

(note this includes only those directly certified)

APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS 2013-14 New Applicant Previous Applicant
 (See next page for complete instructions.)
 To apply for free or reduced price meals, fill out this application and sign your name.

Part 1. Children's Names

Child's Name	School or Center	Foster	Age	Child's Name	School or Center	Foster	Age
1. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	4. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	5. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
3. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	6. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Part 2. Households receiving SNAP, TANF, or FOPPI: If any member of your household is NOW receiving SNAP, TANF, or FOPPI but you did not receive a notice of direct certification from the school, list the CASE NUMBER. Fill out Sections 1, 2, and 5. The application MUST have the signature of an adult.
 SNAP Case Number: _____ TANF Case Number: _____ FOPPI Case Number: _____

Part 3. Is this child a migrant, homeless, or runaway? Migrant Homeless Runaway

Part 4. Total Household Income

A. Name _____ How much you get, each pay day and how often _____
 (List everyone in household) \$100/month or \$200/twice a month or \$300/every other month

	Earnings from work before deductions	Welfare, child support, alimony	Pensions, retirement, Social Security	Other Income/Other
Example: Jane _____	\$ 100.00/weekly	\$ 140.00/every other wk	\$ 00.00/monthly	_____ monthly
_____	/	/	/	/
_____	/	/	/	/
_____	/	/	/	/
_____	/	/	/	/
_____	/	/	/	/
_____	/	/	/	/
_____	/	/	/	/

Signature and Social Security Number (Adult must sign)
 Household member must sign the application. If Part 4 is completed by a household member or mark the "I" do not have a Social Security Number (SSN) on the back of this page.
 I certify that all information on this application is true and that I understand that if I purposely give false information, the children may not be eligible for free or reduced price meals. I understand that if I intentionally give false information, the children may be prosecuted.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Social Security Number: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Email Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Part 6. Ethnic and racial identities (optional)
 Mark one or more ethnic identities: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino
 Mark one or more racial identities: Asian American Indian or Alaska Native White Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Black or African American

FOR SCHOOL/CENTER USE ONLY
 Total income & how often: _____ (SNAP or other eligible program household) Yes No
 Household size: _____ Paid Rate
 Signature of Determining Official: _____ Date modification sent: _____ Date withdrawn or transferred: _____

IDENTIFIED STUDENTS ARE NOT APPROVED FREE ON A HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION

REIMBURSEMENTS UNDER COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY



- % Identified Students x 1.6 = % meals reimbursed at “free” rate; the rest are reimbursed at “paid” rate
- Participating schools are guaranteed to receive the same reimbursement rate (or a higher one if the Identified Student Percentage increases) for 4 years
- Therefore, the higher the poverty level (Identified Student Percentage), the higher the reimbursement rate.

MEAL REIMBURSEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY

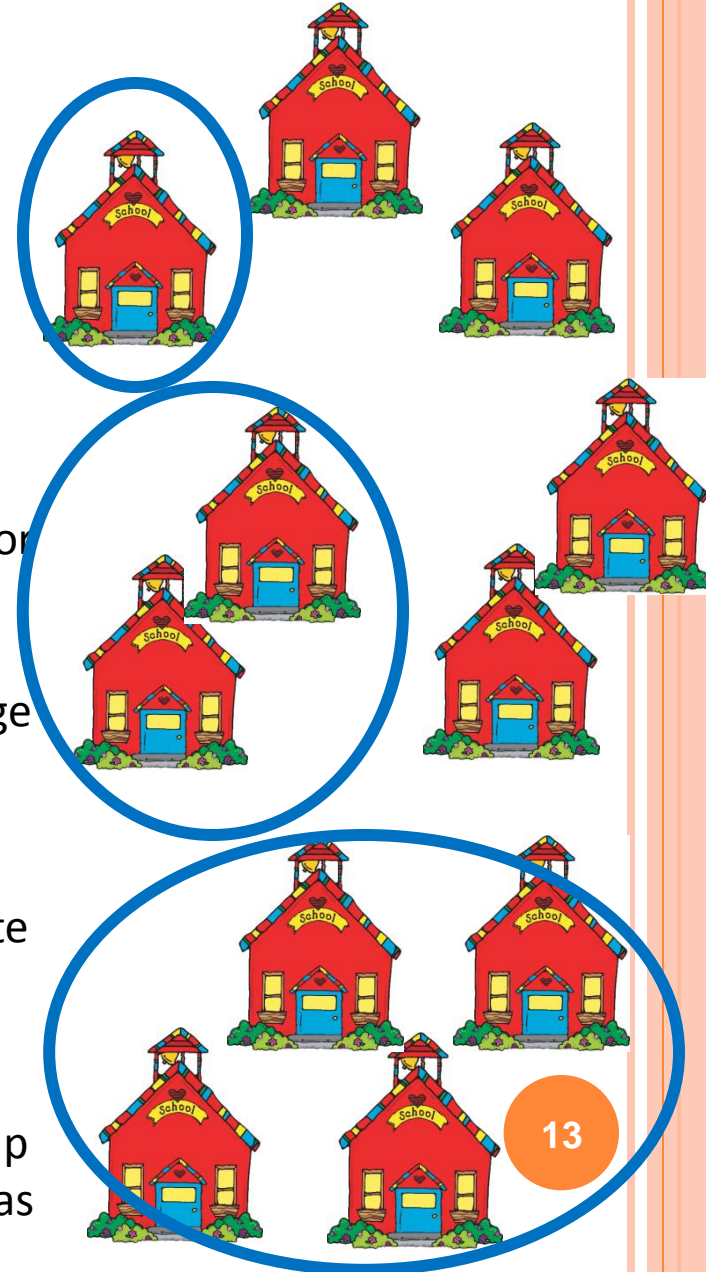
Multiply the percent of Identified Students by a 1.6 multiplier.

The resulting number is the percent of meals reimbursed at the “free” reimbursement rate, with the rest reimbursed at the “paid” rate.

Percentage Identified Students	Percentage Free	Paid
40%	64%	36%
45%	72%	28%
50%	80%	20%
55%	88%	12%
60%	96%	4%
62.5%	100%	0

PARTICIPATION FLEXIBILITIES

- **By individual school**
 - Individual schools with 40% or more Identified Students participate in community eligibility
- **By group**
 - SFAs may choose to group schools any way they wish and calculate the free claiming percentage for the group of schools as a whole, using their combined enrollment and total number of Identified Students, as long as the total percentage is 40% or higher
 - There is no limit to the number of groups
 - Within the same SFA, some schools can participate individually and some can participate as a group
- **By School Food Authority**
 - All schools in the SFA participate as a single group with the same free claiming percentage as long as it is 40% or higher



EVALUATING YOUR NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH/SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

USDA CEP Monthly Reimbursement Estimator Tool

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP15-2013a2updated2.xls>

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Monthly Federal Reimbursement Estimator			
Use to <i>estimate</i> the level of Federal reimbursement received under the CEP			
District Name:			
Step 1: Calculating the Identified Student Percentage If grouping schools, use the grouping calculator to assist in determining 1.1 and 1.2.		Step 2: Federal Reimbursement Rates <i>Select the current reimbursement rates used for each program (without the \$0.06). The additional \$0.06 is applied in the next box</i>	
Enter the number of identified students and enrolled students that is reflective of April 1 st in 1.1 and 1.2		Click to define: Identified Students	
1.1) Enter the number of identified students		Lunch Breakfast	
1.2) Enter the TOTAL student enrollment		Free <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="0"/>	
Percentage of identified students = <i>**This percentage must be at least 40% to be eligible**</i>		Paid <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="0"/>	
Percentage of meals reimbursed at the Federal FREE rate =		Select "\$0.06" if the SFA is certified for the additional \$0.06.	
Percentage of meals reimbursed at the Federal PAID rate =		<input type="text" value="\$"/> <input type="text" value="0.06"/>	
Total number of MEALS served in a month:		0	
Step 3: Monthly Meal Data Enter in the number of LUNCHES and/or BREAKFASTS served in a month in 3.1 and 3.2		Estimated CEP Monthly Federal Reimbursements	
3.1) Enter the total number of LUNCHES served in a month:		Reimbursement for LUNCH = \$0.00	
3.2) Enter the total number of BREAKFASTS served in a month:		Reimbursement for BREAKFAST = \$0.00	
Total number of MEALS served in a month:		Total Reimbursement Level = \$0.00	
Step 4: Anticipated Participation Change due to serving all FREE meals (for example enter 2 for 2%):		Federal Reimbursement per LUNCH = \$0.00	
number of LUNCHES reimbursed at FREE rate =		Federal Reimbursement per BREAKFAST = \$0.00	
number of LUNCHES reimbursed at the PAID rate =		Optional Comparison: Enter current monthly Federal reimbursements and student payment revenue	
number of BREAKFASTS reimbursed at FREE rate =		LUNCH =	
number of BREAKFASTS reimbursed at the PAID rate =		BREAKFAST =	
CEP Difference:		LUNCH Difference =	
This section displays the estimated difference between operating CEP and the current Federal reimbursements and student payments (if applicable). If the differences boxes are green then CEP will generate the same or more Federal revenue, if the box is red then current procedures generate higher Federal Revenue		BREAKFAST difference =	
		Total Difference	



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

How CEP May Impact Other Federal Programs and Funding Sources

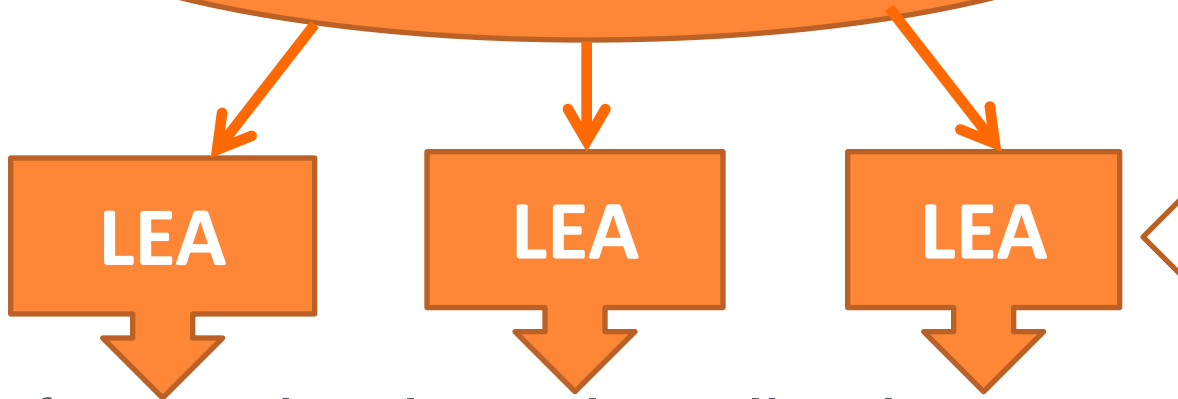
15

TITLE 1

- **Concern:** Title I requires poverty data at the school or individual student level
 - Within-district allocations
 - Equitable services for eligible private school students
 - Within-State allocations
 - Accountability
- **Reality:** CEP should not affect a District's allocation or eligibility for Title 1. This information is based **on census data** not on household free and reduced priced application information.

Federal Title I Funding

SD uses census data to allocate Title I funds to LEAs



Not affected by CEP

Data from school meal applications are used to allocate Title I funds to schools.

S C H O O L S

CEP schools need alternative data source

ALLOCATION OF TITLE I FUNDS TO SCHOOLS WITHIN LEAs

- Options under Title I statute for identifying low-income students for purposes of school selection and allocations:
 - eligibility for free and/or reduced-price school lunches;
 - eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
 - eligibility for Medicaid;
 - Census poverty estimates (if available); or
 - a combination.
- Approximately 90% of LEAs receiving Title I funds use free and/or reduced-price school lunch data — sometimes alone, sometimes in combination with other authorized criteria
- *For more information see the USED CEO Guidance Q and A document.*
- <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/CEPGuid14.pdf>

ACCOUNTABILITY

- All students must be marked as economically disadvantaged (free) in Infinite Campus
 - CEP schools are handled the same as Provision 2 & 3 schools
- On the Report Card, CEP schools are identified as 100% Economically Disadvantaged, and therefore 100% Gap
- This means that for a school's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) targets will all be the same.
 - Amount by which a school must improve proficiency levels on Smarter Balanced each year
 - The increases of proficiency necessary for the “All Students,” “Economically Disadvantaged,” and “Gap” groups

WHAT IS E-RATE?

- E-rate is a federal program administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that provides discounts on E-rate eligible services and equipment.
 - Eligible services include broadband services (such as leased fiber), Internet access, and voice services (being phased out).
 - Eligible equipment includes routers, switches, wireless equipment, UPSs, cabling and the associated installation and maintenance of this equipment.

E-RATE & CEP

- Beginning in E-rate Funding Year 2015, schools are eligible to use CEP data, including the 1.6 multiplier, as is currently permitted by USDA and other federal programs
 - Schools are capped at 100% NSLP eligibility for purposes of determining E-rate discount
- Why is this important? Most CEP schools receive higher E-rate discounts, which means more E-rate funding

GREGORY SCHOOL DISTRICT EXAMPLE*

WITHOUT CEP

- Enrollment = 383
- NSLP = 197
- % NSLP = $197/383 = 51\%$ NSLP
- 51% NSLP = 80% E-rate Discount

* Using October 2014 NSLP Data

GREGORY SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH CEP

- Assume a 65% CEP factor for Gregory School District (including Elem, MS, and HS):
 - # NSLP students without CEP was 197
 - # NSLP students with CEP is 383
 - 383 (# students enrolled) \times 65% CEP \times 1.6 multiplier = 398
 - CEP computed students is capped at # of enrolled students
 - Enrollment = 383
 - CEP NSLP Eligibility = 383
 - 100% NSLP Eligibility

GREGORY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPARISON

○ Without CEP:

- Enrollment/NSLP = $197/383 = 51\%$ NSLP
- E-rate Discount = 80% for Category 1 and 2

○ With CEP:

- Enrollment/NSLP = $383/383 = 100\%$ NSLP
- Category 1 E-rate Discount = 90% (maximum allowed)
- Category 2 E-rate Discount = 85% (maximum allowed)

WHAT IT MEANS IN TERMS OF \$\$: E-RATE CATEGORY 1

○ Voice Services:

- Pre-discount: \$4500.60
- Discount: 60%*
- E-rate funding: \$2700.36
- E-rate funding WITH CEP: \$3150.42
- Discount: 70%
- **Increase in funding: \$450.06**

*E-rate discounts for voice are phasing out by 20 percentage points each year.

WHAT IT MEANS IN TERMS OF \$\$: E-RATE CATEGORY 2

○ Internal Connections:

- Pre-discount: \$57,450
- Discount: 80%
- E-rate funding: \$45,960
- E-rate funding WITH CEP: \$48,832.50
- Discount: 85%
- Increase in funding: \$2,872.50

E-RATE AND CEP SUMMARY

Except for small districts where every school already had 75% or higher NSLP participation, **school districts that opted into CEP received a higher E-rate discount,** and thus more E-rate funding.

For E-Rate questions, please contact Debra Kriete, South Dakota E-rate Coordinator, at:

dmkriete@comcast.net

888 232 0241

DOE Contact Information

Shannon Malone

Office Administrator

Title Programs

Shannon.Malone@state.sd.us

605-773-6509

Rob Huffman

Office Administrator

Grants Management

Robyn.Huffman@state.sd.us

605-773-4600

Betsy Chapman

Program Specialist

Title Programs

Betsy.Chapman@state.sd.us

605-773-4712

Laura Scheibe

Accreditation & Accountability

Administrator

Laura.Scheibe@state.sd.us

605-773-4773



HOW TO APPLY FOR CEP

29

WHAT DO I NEED TO SEND TO CANS FOR APPROVAL?

1. Signed and dated CEP Agreement
2. Completed CEP Site List on iCAN
3. Total Enrollment as of April 1 (a list of all enrolled student names)
4. All documentation for Identified Students as of April 1
 - Direct Certification documentation
 - Written documentation from source agency for foster children and FDPIR
 - Written documentation from school coordinator for Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway students.
 - Written documentation from Head Start coordinator.

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR CEP

- **SY 2015-2016 the deadline to apply is August 31, 2015**
- **Mid-year Elections allowed in SY 2015-2016**

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) have the option to elect CEP throughout the remainder of SY 2015-16.
- Normally the deadline to apply is **June 30** prior to implementing CEP without a special exemption from the USDA.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY SCHOOLS

- All school districts that implemented the option the first year and were surveyed by FRAC would recommend community eligibility to high poverty schools like their own
- School districts report positive feedback from parents and school staff
- Increased ability to feed more students
- Some districts report an increase in revenue



Questions?

Check out the CANS NSLP website for more information on implementing Community Eligibility Provision in your school: <http://doe.sd.gov/cans/nslp.aspx>

Call or email your CEP questions to:
605-773-3413
DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us

- ❖ Cheriee Watterson, CANS Assistant Program Director
Cheriee.watterson@state.sd.us
- ❖ Pam McCown, CANS NSLP Program Specialist
Pam.mccown@state.sd.us

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION RESOURCES

CANS NSLP website

<http://doe.sd.gov/cans/nslp.aspx>

USDA FNS website

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>

FRAC website

<http://frac.org/federal-foodnutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program/community-eligibility/>

Links to Key USDA and State Materials

<http://frac.org/community-eligibility/>

Brief: An Amazing New Option for Schools

http://frac.org/pdf/community_eligibility_amazing_new_option_schools.pdf