

# COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?**

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is the newest opportunity for schools to provide breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students in eligible schools. CEP is part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) and has been made available to all schools as of July 1, 2014.

### **How is the CEP program funded?**

No school district, city or community funds will be needed to support this program. This is a federally funded program. Federal reimbursement is provided for each reimbursable breakfast and/or lunch (1 per student) served. The federal meal reimbursement combined with the state salary reimbursement and any additional funds obtained from second meals, a la carte items and catering will cover the operational and food costs incurred with operating as a CEP school where all students are provided a meal at no charge.

### **Has this program been piloted in other states?**

CEP has been phased in over a period of three years in a limited number of states as a pilot. Due to the overwhelming positive results and feedback it is now being implemented nationwide.

- Across the 11 States, 574 Local Education Agencies have at least one school participating in CEP
- A total of 3,937 schools are currently participating

### **How long can a school operate as a CEP school before having to reapply?**

Once schools are identified as eligible, they will remain eligible for a 4 year period and may reapply before April 1<sup>st</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Schools may opt out of CEP at any time during their four year eligibility period.

### **Is there any further action required of the parents or guardians of students attending CEP Schools?**

Families will no longer need to complete a meal benefit form or any form of application to participate in this program. Every student enrolled at identified schools will be able to eat both breakfast and lunch free of charge regardless of individual eligibility. If you have another child in the household that attends a Red Clay school that is not participating in the CEP Program and you would like to apply for free or reduced priced meals for that child, you will need to complete a Meal Benefit Form. Please do not forget to list all children in the household on this Meal Benefit form. Meal Benefit Forms can be obtained from the School Office, online at [www.redclaycafe.com](http://www.redclaycafe.com), or by calling the Nutrition Services Office at (302)-992-5580.

### **Can I still put money into my children(s) accounts to purchase snacks or second meals?**

Students still have the ability to enter money into their accounts which they will need in order to purchase any food items in addition to the first meal provided at no cost.

### **Will students still need to enter their PIN numbers at the registers?**

Students still need to enter their pin numbers to receive a meal in order for our staff to be able to identify students with food allergies. This will also allow the students to access their accounts to purchase seconds or a la carte items.

### **Will the meal offerings change in schools operating as CEP schools?**

CEP will not affect the quality of the meal being served or the daily operation of the cafeteria. Students will find the same great, nutritious meals with no changes to meal quality.

### **As a parent/guardian, I would like to pay for my child's meals. Am I able to pay the cost of the meal if my child attends a CEP School?**

Parents/guardians can make a donation to the Red Clay School Nutrition Department account, the school district or perhaps the school PTA group if they are interested.

### **Why did the Red Clay School Nutrition Department decide to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision Program at several sites?**

It is the right thing to do for our students and we are happy to be able to bring so many schools on board. Public education is free for all students and students cannot learn without good nutrition. We know the importance of feeding our students and how it relates to their education.

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**The following schools are operating their school meals program under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program where ALL enrolled students are eligible to receive a breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE. There is no application process. The student just needs their PIN number and a healthy appetite.**

Forest Oak  
Meadowood  
Highlands  
Lewis  
Shortlidge  
Baltz

Richardson Park  
& RPLC  
Marbrook  
Richey  
Mote  
Warner  
A.I. DuPont Middle

H.B. DuPont  
Stanton  
Dickinson  
A.I. DuPont High  
McKean  
Central

*If you have any additional questions about CEP, please contact Jessica Terranova at [Jessica.Terranova@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:Jessica.Terranova@redclay.k12.de.us).*