

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

Community Eligibility Provision is a federal meal provision established to increase access to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) under The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) authorized by Congress in 2010. CEP allows eligible schools to offer free meals to attending students regardless of individual income. CEP eliminates the burden of collecting household applications to determine eligibility for school meals, relying instead on information from other means tested programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), CalFresh and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), CalWORKs, etc.

How do schools participate in CEP?

Schools qualify for CEP meal status based on the number of students who are directly certified to receive free meals per their participation in CalFresh, CalWorks, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Head Start programs or who are identified as homeless, foster, migrant, or runaway as a percent- age of total site enrollment.

The “Identified Student Percent- age” (ISP) must be ≥ 40 percent in order for a group of schools or individual schools to participate. Schools with (ISP) ≥ 62.5 percent are mandated to participate.

Who benefits from Community Eligibility? Everyone!

Students have more access to free nutritious meals every day, no stigma, less time spent in lunch lines and more time to eat nutritious meals. Parents will not have to worry about filling out household applications which means less paperwork and no worries about lunch accounts or unpaid meal charges. Cafeteria staff will have streamlined meal service timing to allow for more time for students to consume their food.

What type of paperwork is required from eligible schools?

Although CEP does not require families to fill out meal application forms, a School Program Services Form will be used to help allocate state funds via the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Title 1 and At-risk programs. Therefore, schools will still need to collect household information via the School Program Service Form for each student who is not Directly Certified and for every newly enrolled student.

How will School Program Services forms be distributed and collected?

School Program Services Forms are provided to all newly enrolled students. This is a new form and is a mandatory part of our enrollment procedure. School Program Services Forms are only needed for brand new students to Twin Rivers Unified School District. These forms allow the district to continue funding various instructional programs at the schools for students. If we do not have a form on file per student we will lose funding and potentially lose instructional programs at the schools. All forms need to be dated and turned in prior to October 30th.

What meal will the student receive?

Each student can receive one breakfast and one lunch at no cost. Menus are planned according to the USDA’s nutrition guidelines, and include fresh fruit and vegetables. During the meal service, Offer vs Serve will continue to apply. Students must be offered all of the components, and must choose at least three components, including at least one serving of fruit or vegetable.

How will each meal be tracked?

Nutrition Services will continue to use the Point of Service to track each meal served. The meals will be tracked by individual student account (without any meal charges) students will continue to come through the line by classroom and use their cards or PIN.

Can adults/teachers participate in the school meal program?

Free school meals are intended for students at the qualifying sites. Adults interested in receiving a meal can purchase a meal at the adult prices; **Breakfast - \$2.25 Lunch - \$4.00 Milk - \$0.35**

