

Expansion of Free School Meals through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

What does CEP do?

- Provides free breakfast and lunch to all students for up to 5 consecutive years
- Eases administrative burden
- Increases participation
- Improves efficiency
- Eliminates stigma
- Eliminates unpaid meal debt
- Improves learning environment



How to Calculate ISP

$$\frac{\text{Identified Students}}{\text{Enrolled Students}} \times 100 = \text{Identified Student Percentage}^*$$

*must have an ISP of 25% to be CEP eligible

CEP Reimbursement

ISP X 1.6 = the percent of meals reimbursed at the federal and State free reimbursement rate. All other meals are reimbursed at the federal and State paid reimbursement rate

State CEP Subsidy

Beginning school year 2023-2024, the State paid reimbursement rate for CEP meals will increase to ensure that all CEP meals are reimbursed at an amount equal to the total free reimbursement rate



Next Steps

- Evaluate ISPs
- Determine school groupings to maximize CEP participation
- Apply to participate mid year by December 15, 2023**

***No need to reapply if already approved!**



Need Help?

Contact the Child Nutrition Office
www.cn.nysed.gov
518-473-8781



Who can participate?

Schools or a group of schools with a minimum Identified Student Percentage of at least 25 percent based on April 1, 2023, if available, or October 6, 2023 enrollment.



What is an Identified Student Percentage (ISP)?

The percentage of enrolled students that are certified for free meals without the use of household applications

ISP includes:

- SNAP recipients identified through the direct certification matching process (DCMP)
- Medicaid recipients identified through the DCMP
- Extension of DCMP eligibility to siblings or household members of
- Homeless children identified by the Homeless Liaison
- Head Start/Evenstart
- Migrant Youth
- Runaways
- Foster Children certified directly by the State or local foster agency